

1 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
2 PUBLIC HEARING
3 RONALDSON FIELD TYPE II
4 CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION DEBRIS
5 LANDFILL/RECYCLING FACILITY

6 The Public Hearing conducted by the
7 Louisiana Department of Environmental
8 Quality Services taken at the 602 North 5th
9 Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802 on
10 Thursday, April 24, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

11 Reported by:
12 Tara Torres
13 Certified Court Reporter
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I N T R O D U C T I O N

2

3 MS. HILL:

4 I'm employed at the Louisiana

deq4-24
5 Department of Environmental Quality.
6 I will be serving as the Hearing
7 Officer this evening, Thursday,
8 April 24, 2008. This hearing is
9 scheduled to accept public comments
10 concerning the Technically Complete
11 Solid waste renewal and modification
12 and the associated Environmental
13 Assessment Statement for the Natural
14 Resources Recovery, Incorporated,
15 Ronaldson Field Type III
16 Construction and Demolition Debris
17 Landfill and Resources Recovery/
18 Recycling Facility.

19 Agency Interest Number 42610.
20 Permit Number P-0318 and Activity
21 Tracking Number PER20060002 and
22 Associated Environmental Assessment
23 Statement. The sight is located at
24 Rafe Mayer Road, 0.8 miles west from
25 the intersection of Hwy 19, Baton

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1 Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish.

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1 Natural Resources Recovery Inc.
2 requested to renew and modify its
3 existing permit for the Ronaldson
4 Field Construction and Demolition
5 Debris Woodwaste and Resources
6 Recovery and Recycling Facility.
7 The referenced modification is
8 required in part by the LDEQ to be
9 included in the permit renewal
10 application. It relates to the

deq4-24

11 Declarations of Emergency issued
12 during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita
13 and in part to correct a discrepancy
14 in the original permit.

15 The modifications addresses a
16 change in the side slopes and
17 corresponding changes in elevation.
18 The Environmental Assessment
19 Statement submitted by the applicant
20 addresses avoidance of potential and
21 real environmental effects,
22 balancing the social and economic
23 benefits against environmental
24 impact costs and alternative sites,
25 projects and mitigative measures.

1

6

1 This Hearing is not being
2 conducted in a question and answer
3 format. Please remember that the
4 purpose of this public hearing is
5 for DEQ to receive your comments
6 concerning the technically complete
7 solid waste permit renewal and
8 modification and the associated
9 Environmental Assessment Statement.

10 This hearing is to provide all
11 individuals a chance to be heard
12 regardless of their position on the
13 technically complete solid waste

deq4-24
14 permit renewal and modification and
15 associated Environmental Assessment
16 Statement. Courteous behavior is
17 expected of everyone at all times.
18 You may speak in support of the
19 permitting actions; in opposition to
20 the permitting actions; or simply to
21 provide additional information. All
22 interested parties will be given a
23 reasonable opportunity to comment
24 unless the testimony is not related
25 to the purpose of this hearing. All

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1 comments heard and transcribed
2 during this hearing and all written
3 comments received during the comment
4 period will be evaluated and
5 addressed in the Department's
6 written response.
7 A public notice advertising this
8 public hearing and request for
9 public comment was published in the
10 Advocate, Baton Rouge, Louisiana on
11 March 21, 2008. A copy of the
12 technically complete solid waste
13 permit renewal and modification
14 application and Associated
15 Environmental Assessment Statement
16 are available for inspection and

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review at the LDEQ Public Records
Center, Room 127, 602 North 5th
Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
Viewing hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30
p.m., Monday through Friday, except
holidays.

23 The available information can
24 also be accessed electronically on
25 the Electronic Document Management

8

1 System on the DEQ public website at
2 www.deq.louisiana.gov. Additional
3 copies are also available for review
4 at the East Baton Rouge Parish
5 Library, Scotlandville Branch 7373
6 Scenic Highway, Baton Rouge,
7 Louisiana. And City of Baton Rouge,
8 East Baton Rouge Mayor's Office, 226
9 St. Louis Street, Third Floor, Baton
10 Rouge, Louisiana.

11 In addition, copies of the
12 public notice are mailed to
13 individuals who have requested to be
14 placed on the mailing list
15 maintained by the office of
16 Environmental Services by March 19,
17 2008. In accordance with the La
18 Administrative Code, Title 33, Part
19 VII, III, Section 509.F7, comments

20 deq4-24
received by 12:30 p.m., Tuesday, May
21 27, 2008 will be considered prior to
22 a final decision.

23 All comments received by 12:30
24 p.m., Tuesday, May 27, 2008 shall be
25 retained by the Department and

1

1 considered in determining whether to
2 issue or deny the permit. Written
3 comments on this technically
4 complete solid waste permit renewal
5 and modification application and
6 Associated Environmental Assessment
7 Statement may be submitted to Ms.
8 Soumaya Ghosn, LDEQ-OES,
9 Environmental Assistance Division,
10 P.O. Box 4313, Baton Rouge,
11 Louisiana 70821-4310.

Under Louisiana revised statutes
30:2017 as revised by the
legislature in the 2004 session the
Department is required to follow the
following order with the provision
that the presiding officer may give
preference to a public official to
speak at any time during the
hearing. However, any time limit
set for citizen testimony shall
apply to public officials.

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23 The Department must provide up
24 to 30 minutes to the permit
25 applicant for an introductory

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1 presentation. Thereafter preference
2 for speaking up to one hour is given
3 as follows: For the first hour to
4 those citizens who live within a
5 two-mile radius of the location of
6 the facility. For the second hour,
7 to those citizens who work within a
8 two-miles radius of the location of
9 the facility. And for the third
10 hour, for those citizens who live
11 within the Parish of the location of
12 the facility. Thereafter each hour
13 of the hearing shall alternate
14 between those who are in support of
15 and those are in opposition to the
16 Technically Complete Solid Waste
17 Permit Renewal and Modification
18 Application and Associated
19 Environmental Assessment Statement
20 the permits.

21 The order of tonight's hearing
22 will be based on the information
23 provided by the speakers on their
24 registration form. Anyone who
25 registered to speak, but did not

1 provide the necessary information
2 will be given the opportunity to
3 speak. However, they will be called
4 last in the order of registration.
5 This hearing is being transcribed,
6 therefore, each speaker shall begin
7 by stating for the Record their
8 name, address, and any organization
9 that they represent. So at this
10 time if everyone could please turn
11 off their cell phones, and we have a
12 few extra chairs up front if any of
13 you want to come sits. If any of
14 you want to come up, there's a few
15 more chairs. Otherwise, we'll get
16 started with the speakers. At this
17 time, I would like the permit
18 applicant's representative to come
19 forward and make their introductory
20 presentation.

21 MR. BERNAM:

22 Thank you. Good evening. My
23 name is Steve Bernam. I'm the
24 President of Engineering Associates
25 Incorporated. Our office prepared

1 the Permit Renewal Application
2 that's being considered by the
3 Department of Environmental Quality
4 for Ronaldson Field. I've been
5 associated with Ronaldson field for
6 the past 10 years. I'm familiar
7 with it's history as well as it's
8 current condition. And as a result,
9 Natural Resources Recovery
10 Incorporated, the owners of
11 Ronaldson Field, have requested that
12 I provide some opening statements
13 regarding Ronaldson Field and
14 regarding the content of this Permit
15 Renewal Application.

16 Hereafter you will hear me refer
17 to Natural Resources Recovery
18 Incorporated as simply Natural
19 Resources. I'll refer to the
20 Department of Environmental Quality
21 as simply the DEQ or the LDEQ. I
22 just want to point out that when I
23 say community, I'm specifically
24 referring to the residents of the
25 Alsen and St. Irma Lee community.

□

13

1
2 Let's talk about the purpose of
3 the Permit Renewal Application and

4 just why we're here tonight.
5 Ronaldson Field is a permitting
6 construction and demolition debris
7 landfill, a permitted wood waste
8 landfill, and it is designated as a
9 resource recovery slash recycling
10 facility. By LDEQ definition and
11 the solid waste regulations,
12 construction and demolition debris,
13 and I'm going to read this to make
14 sure I get it right, it's materials
15 generated in the process of
16 construction, remodeling, repair,
17 renovation, or demolition of
18 structures.
19 It's what we live and work in
20 every day. In addition to
21 construction and demolition debris
22 materials, the landfill also takes
23 wood waste. However, most of this
24 is recycled, which I'll discuss in a
25 few moments. Ronaldson Field does

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14

1 not accept any type of hazardous
2 waste. Ronaldson Field does not
3 accept garbage, household garbage.
4 Ronaldson Field does not accept any
5 type of material that does not fall
6 under that very strict definition of

7 construction and demolition debris.
8 A public hearing such as this one
9 tonight are usually, but not always
10 held in conjunction with permit
11 renewal applications. I want you to
12 know that Natural Resources actually
13 requested this public hearing.

14 They want you the public and
15 specifically, you the community to
16 know what this permit renewal
17 application is all about. Natural
18 Resources is of the opinion that the
19 more facts that you know, the more
20 comfortable you will be with
21 Ronaldson Field and the more
22 comfortable you will be the
23 provisions of this permit renewal
24 application.

25 Now, before we get started, I've

□

15

1 got a few pictures I'd like to show
2 you. I know many of you know where
3 the landfill is. I know, there may
4 be some of you that have not visited
5 the landfill. There may some that
6 have visited it, but have never gone
7 through the gates. I'm going to
8 make this real quick, because I am
9 on a time limit. But I would like

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10 to show you a few things. That's
11 just the front sign. Could we go to
12 the next picture, please?

13 This is the entrance looking
14 from Rafe Mayer Road. Go ahead,
15 please. That's the office just as
16 you get past the entrance. Okay, go
17 ahead, please. That's the office
18 just as you get past the entrance.
19 Go ahead. That's the road that
20 leads up into the landfill itself.
21 Go ahead. This is from the top of
22 the landfill looking on what is
23 known as the working face. The area
24 where material is actually being
25 placed.

□

16

1 I want to point out a couple
2 quick things here. This is clay
3 that's put on the landfill. It's a
4 part of the DEQ's requirements to
5 put clay cover on the material at
6 least every 30 days. I will tell
7 you that that happens more often
8 than that at Ronaldson Field, but
9 that's the minimum requirement.
10 Please note this surface area
11 (indicating). That is probably the
12 size of a residential yard, maybe

deq4-24

13 half of a football field. That is
14 the size of the working face.
15 That's something that Natural
16 Resources and Ronaldson Field have
17 learned over time. There are many
18 advantages to keeping that space
19 small.

20 So it's really a very small area
21 that has material on it at any given
22 time. Once that's brought to the
23 appropriate elevation, it'll be
24 covered with clay, and a new area
25 will be begun, but not before that

□

17

1 one is covered with clay. Next
2 slide, please. That's just a load
3 of pallets that was brought out
4 there while I was there. Go ahead.
5 That's a typical truck load of
6 dumping material. Again, this is
7 not a setup. I showed up last week
8 at Ronaldson Field unannounced.
9 walked around for 30 minutes. Took
10 pictures. Walked out. I took
11 pictures of what was there at the
12 time.

13 This truck has, you know,
14 obviously some metal pipe. I see
15 some boards and timber in there.

deq4-24

16 Here's the metal pipe, boards,
17 debris. That kind of material is
18 what is taken into Ronaldson Field
19 and only that type of material, plus
20 wood waste on occasion. Next slide.
21 Clay covering activities were going
22 on while I was out there the other
23 day. One point of interest I want
24 to show you. This area right here
25 (indicating). That is land filled

□

18

1 materials. When you operate a
2 landfill properly and compact that
3 material in that's what it looks
4 like when it gets compacted. It
5 almost turns into dirt. That
6 material was about to be covered
7 with clay, but I just want to point
8 that out to show. This is a much
9 different scenario than a municipal
10 landfill or a landfill that accepts
11 household garbage and that kind of
12 thing. It's a whole different
13 situation. Next slide, please.
14 Okay. That's it on that.

15 So, let's talk about the three
16 requested changes to Ronaldson
17 Fields permit, but first I'd like to
18 tell you this. What will not

19 change. Next slide, please. This
20 binder represents the permit renewal
21 application. It is required to be
22 submitted every 10 years. Landfills
23 in Louisiana are required every 10
24 years to submit permit renewal
25 applications. The changes that

□

19

1 we're about to talk about may be
2 represent eight to ten pages out of
3 this three-ring binder. The
4 remainder of this is just the permit
5 renewal application that is required
6 to be turned in to the Department of
7 Environmental Quality every 10
8 years. That's all it is. So I just
9 want to stress that only a small
10 portion of this document is actually
11 related to changes.

12 So what won't change? Nearly
13 that entire binder won't change.
14 It's all the same. There's no
15 expansion of the landfill as it
16 relates to the footprint or the land
17 area that's covered by the landfill.
18 There's no changes to the buffer
19 zones that were established 10 years
20 ago. There's no change to the type
21 of materials that are accepted by

deq4-24

22 Ronaldson Field. All of those
23 things remain changed.

24 Now, the three things that we
25 are requesting changes for. weekly

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1 tonnage rates. Ronaldson Field is
2 required to provide the DEQ in this
3 permit application with an estimate
4 of the weekly tonnage, the weight,
5 that will come through the gate of
6 Ronaldson Field on a weekly basis.
7 That's a requirement of the permit
8 application.

9 Now what happened is, some loads
10 that come into Ronaldson Field are
11 weighed, but most are not. They
12 come in as a volume and the bills
13 get sent out, because you brought in
14 a pickup load of material or you
15 brought in 20 yard roll-off worth of
16 material. It's based on volume.
17 Now, 10 years ago when the permit
18 application was originally submitted
19 and approved, the DEQ had a formula
20 for taking cubic yardage and
21 converting it to weight, so that you
22 could report your required tonnage
23 to the DEQ. That formula estimated
24 one cubic yard of construction

25 demolition debris to weigh 200

□

21

1 pounds.

2 well, now we're 10 years later.

3 That formula has been revised. The

4 new formula that will be, that

5 Ronaldson Field will be required to

6 use in conjunction with this permit

7 renewal application assumes that a

8 cubic yard of material weighs 500

9 pounds, not 200 pounds. So there's

10 a two and a half times factor there

11 that has nothing to do with any

12 additional trucks coming in the

13 landfill. Nothing to do with any

14 additional material coming into the

15 landfill. It is a math problem.

16 That's all it is. And it requires

17 that the weekly tonnage estimate

18 that was estimated by Natural

19 Resources 10 years ago be updated.

20 There's something else in that

21 formula that's even more significant

22 than that. And I'm trying to make

23 this quick, and I apologize if I

24 rush through something tonight that

25 you care to have more information

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1 about it, please let us know. we'll
2 be happy to provide it.

3 The other part of that formula
4 that has changed is 10 years ago you
5 were to assume that a truck coming
6 into Ronaldson Field was 15 cubic
7 yards in volume. which was probably
8 realistic ten years ago. Now that
9 we're 10 years later, we got roll
10 offs and that kind of thing. The
11 average container coming into
12 Ronaldson Field is 30 to 40 yards.
13 So the new formula requires did you
14 use the actual volume of the
15 container that's coming into the
16 landfill. whereas, 10 years ago and
17 up till now Ronaldson Field has been
18 assuming that everything that comes
19 in the gate is 15 cubic yards.

20 So as it sits right now, if a 40
21 yard container comes into Ronaldson
22 Field, the way you calculate the
23 tonnage that you report to the DEQ
24 is you assume it was a 15 yard
25 truck, not a 40 yard truck and you

□

1 multiply it by 200 pounds and that's

2 it. That's what you report to the
3 DEQ.

4 Now what you're going to have to
5 do is take the actual yardage of
6 that truck, which is 40 cubic yards
7 and multiply it by, not 200 pounds,
8 but 500 pounds. It's a much, much
9 bigger number. That is by far the
10 most significant reason that an
11 increase in weekly tonnage rates are
12 needed. There are a couple other
13 reasons Ronaldson Fields has been
14 awarded the contract by East Baton
15 Rouge Parish to deal with some curb
16 side materials construction and
17 demolition debris and green waste.
18 That also has been a contributing
19 factor, but it pales in comparison
20 to the main reason that that's being
21 done, which is simply a math
22 problem.

23 And I'll say again, has nothing
24 with increases in traffic. Nothing
25 to do with increases in material

1

24

1 coming into the landfill. Has
2 everything to do with a math
3 problem. How it's calculated.
4 Adjustments to the side slopes,

deg4-24
5 landfill side slopes. That's the
6 second item. First thing I'd like
7 to do is try to explain to you what
8 a side slope is. The LDEQ
9 regulations currently and have
10 always allowed the use of three to
11 one side slopes in a landfill. A
12 three to one side - Three to one
13 simply means that the landfill slope
14 is built by going out 3 feet
15 horizontal for every foot you go up.
16 So if my arm is 3-feet wide and if
17 this is a foot, it dictates what
18 that slope is. Three to one. A one
19 to one slope would be one foot over
20 for every one foot up. It would be
21 a much steeper slope.

22 So DEQ regulations have always
23 allowed three to one side slope.
24 They can easily be mowed. Once the
25 landfill is completed, they don't

□

25

1 promote erosion at that slope. That
2 kind of thing. So there are reasons
3 why three to one are allowed. The
4 original permit application for
5 Natural Resources that was submitted
6 10 years ago contained a
7 discrepancy.

8 And I'm happy to tell you, I've
 9 been associated with Natural
 10 Resources for 10 years, but I
 11 actually didn't do the original
 12 permit application. There was
 13 another firm that did that. There's
 14 a discrepancy in there. There's a
 15 discrepancy between the text. The
 16 words that are in the document and a
 17 map that's in the document. This
 18 submittal will resolve that
 19 discrepancy in the permit renewal.

20 There's a second reason that the
 21 side slope modification is being
 22 requested. And it's related to
 23 Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. And I
 24 need to speak to that very quickly.
 25 When I refer to hurricanes Katrina

□

26

1 and Rita I am not referring to any
 2 materials outside of East Baton
 3 Rouge Parish. This permit renewal
 4 document refers to hurricanes on
 5 several occasions. And that has
 6 been misinterpreted to mean that
 7 we're talking about materials from
 8 the New Orleans area. We simply are
 9 not.

10 Hurricane Rita in particular was

11 a significant impact on East Baton
12 Rouge Parish. It created a lot of
13 down trees. It created construction
14 and demolition debris. That kind of
15 thing. To the extent that the
16 Governor issued something called an
17 emergency order where allowances
18 were given to landfills and other
19 businesses that handled material
20 that was related to the cleanup of
21 the hurricane.

22 Those allowances provided for
23 the use of three to one side slopes
24 in a landfill. Ronaldson Fields
25 side slopes are actually constructed

1

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1 at three to one now, most of them
2 are, as a result of that allowance
3 one of the provisions of the
4 emergency order was that would -
5 that, that the permittee would come
6 back and place permanently in their
7 permit at a later date. They're
8 doing it right now.

The utilization of three to one side slopes will result in a slight increase in the overall height of the landfill once the entire landfill has been finished.

14 However, let me stress, there will
15 be no increases in the land area
16 covered by the landfill. There will
17 be no changes to the buffer zone,
18 and there are no changes to the
19 types of material that are being
20 brought in.

deq4-24

However, let me stress, there will be no increases in the land area covered by the landfill. There will be no changes to the buffer zone, and there are no changes to the types of material that are being brought in.

21 The last change in the permit.
22 Inclusion of adjacent parishes in
23 Ronaldson Field service area.
24 Ronaldson when we submitted this we
25 initially requested a statewide

The last change in the permit.
Inclusion of adjacent parishes in
Ronaldson Field service area.
Ronaldson when we submitted this we
initially requested a statewide

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1 service area. That's not uncommon
2 for landfills to request a statewide
3 service area. There were some
4 objections to that, because of the
5 thought that Ronaldson Field may be
6 attempting to bring in material from
7 the New Orleans area.

service area. That's not uncommon for landfills to request a statewide service area. There were some objections to that, because of the thought that Ronaldson Field may be attempting to bring in material from the New Orleans area.

8 And I won't take the time to
9 tell you why that's not possible,
10 and it's extremely unlikely, but it
11 is. But that certainly was not the
12 motive of Natural Resources to
13 request a statewide area, but as a
14 result of the concerns that were
15 voiced this was revised. And we
16 sent out correspondence to the DEQ

And I won't take the time to tell you why that's not possible, and it's extremely unlikely, but it is. But that certainly was not the motive of Natural Resources to request a statewide area, but as a result of the concerns that were voiced this was revised. And we sent out correspondence to the DEQ

deg4-24
17 saying you know what, some people
18 had some problems with that. Let's
19 go to a six parish area around East
20 Baton Rouge Parish. Most of those
21 parishes being rural.
22 The justification for doing that
23 is that if more closely is
24 consistent with what East Baton
25 Rouge Parishes North Landfill

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1 service area is. There service area
2 is the same parishes that have been
3 requested in the Ronaldson Field
4 permit application, plus two
5 additional parishes. And I'll just
6 tell you real quickly why it's so
7 important that those somewhat match.
8 I'll give you an example. If a
9 guy in East Feliciana Parish right
10 now tears down his shed, and he has
11 boards and metal and tin and those
12 things are associated with sheds
13 that need to be disposed of, he has
14 go to take them to the North
15 Landfill because Ronaldson Field
16 cannot accept them right now. With
17 an expanded service area just in the
18 adjacent parishes around East Baton
19 Rouge Parish, that will allow that

23 ^{deq4-24}
of land area. The landfill
24 footprint, the landfill buffers stay
25 the same. There's no change in the

□

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1 types of materials excepted by the
2 landfill. There have not and never
3 will be materials accepted from New
4 Orleans.

5 If you don't know this, if I
6 don't tell you that, you may not
7 know that. And I'll say it again.
8 Natural Resource is of the opinion
9 that the more facts you know, the
10 more comfortable you will be with
11 Ronaldson Field and with Ronaldson
12 Field's permit application we're
13 discussing tonight.

14 As part of this ongoing dialogue
15 with the community, Ronaldson Field
16 personnel routinely and have been
17 meeting with members of the
18 community. And again, when I say
19 community, I mean residents from the
20 Alsen and St. Irma Lee areas. I've
21 had the opportunity to attend some
22 of these meetings, and I've got to
23 tell you.

24 The three changes we just
25 discussed have not been an issue.

□

32

1 They have really not been brought
2 up. But in all fairness, there are
3 other issues that have been brought
4 up. I want to quickly discuss them.
5 I want to discuss what Ronaldson
6 Field is doing about them.

7 One of them is fire. A fire
8 occurred at the landfill in March of
9 '07. I've had many people ask me;
10 what happened? what is that all
11 about? well, I'll tell you quickly.
12 The fire started in the wee hours of
13 the morning. The Ronaldson Field
14 security guard first discovered the
15 fire. He called the on-call
16 Ronaldson Field personnel who
17 immediately called the fire
18 department, the state police,
19 Louisiana Department of
20 Environmental Quality. I was
21 present in the landfill when the
22 fire extinguishing efforts were
23 going on. The DEQ was present when
24 the fire was being extinguished.

25 The fire was contained on the

□

33

1 interior of the landfill. There
2 were levees all around the outside
3 of the landfill. The fire never
4 even thought about getting outside
5 of the landfill, much less off the
6 property. To give you an idea, the
7 landfill was never shut down. The
8 landfill never quit operations
9 because of the fire. Local fire
10 department showed up and basically
11 said, "There's nothing we can do to
12 help you. You got it." And left.
13 wind direction was confirmed to
14 be to the south away from most
15 residential areas during the fire.
16 It did last for a day. It was ugly.
17 And where there's fire there's
18 smoke, and it was there too. It was
19 a 24-hour event. It was an
20 unfortunate event. It was an
21 expensive event for Ronaldson Field.
22 Ronald Field not only - And I'll
23 tell you this, the fire could have
24 been put out much quicker with
25 water, but that's not the way to put

□

1 a landfill fire.
2 And those of you that are
3 familiar with landfills know that.

deq4-24

4 The way to do it is to snuff it out
5 with clay. It's the only way to be
6 sure that it will not recur or that
7 there are ashes down there that are
8 going to raise their ugly heads
9 again. So clay was brought in to
10 cover the fire. Not only was it
11 covered - was it used to cover the
12 fire area, but the entire rest of
13 the landfill was covered with clay
14 to minimize the chance of it ever
15 happening again.

16 One of the things that Ronaldson
17 Field has implemented now is that
18 small working space area that I was
19 circling up there a while ago.
20 Let's keep this small. If something
21 were to happen, a load with ashes in
22 it gets dumped and somehow we don't
23 see it, and a fire starts, it's
24 limited to that small little area,
25 half of a football field, whatever.

□

35

1 So it's a learning process.

2 I wish I could tell you that
3 Ronaldson Field personnel were born
4 knowing all this stuff. They're
5 not. They learn every day just like
6 all the rest of us do. That it for

7 the fire. I could tell you about
8 all kind of policies that have been
9 implemented. You can imagine. It's
10 a big deal. It's like having an
11 OSHA accident. Man, you just -
12 You're going to spend the next part
13 of your life figuring out what you
14 can do to keep it from happening
15 again. And this is no exception.
16 But I won't take time to tell you
17 all that. If you care to know,
18 please let me know.

19 Mud on Rafe Mayer Road is a
20 concern to some of the residents.
21 That's been voiced as a real
22 concern. Ronaldson Field has and
23 will continue to be diligent in its
24 efforts to minimize the tracking of
25 mud on the road. Ronaldson Field

□

36

1 has purchased a sweeper. Give me
2 the next slide, please. Oh, no,
3 skip that. That's the three to one
4 side slope. I was up here trying to
5 show you with my arm and there's one
6 right there. That's a three to one
7 side slope. By the way, that's what
8 the landfill will look like once
9 it's closed too. It gets covered

deq4-24

10 with 2 feet of clay, 6 inches of top
11 soil, grass is put on it.
12 Natural Resources is required to
13 maintain it for several years after
14 the landfill is closed. Mow it.
15 Make sure there's no erosion, that
16 kind of thing. Next slide, please.
17 Next slide. Oh, that ain't it.
18 Keep going. Okay, well, just back
19 up four or five slides and we'll
20 show that in a minute. Stole my
21 thunder on the last part, but we'll
22 get to that.
23 Ronaldson Field purchased a
24 sweeper. Trust me. We've got a
25 picture of it. That sweeper's used

□

37

1 four or five times a day when
2 necessary in rainy conditions.
3 Ronaldson Field has considered a
4 number of options and I personally
5 have discussed these with several of
6 the residents. Concreting the apron
7 out adjacent to Rafe Mayer Road or
8 asphaltting it is one thing that's
9 been thought of. Putting in a truck
10 wash before the trucks leave the
11 facility. Those are difficult to
12 implement. There's some real

13 problems there. Truck wash in
14 particular. You're not going to get
15 it all off. The truckers aren't
16 going to want to stay long enough to
17 let you do it if you wanted to. And
18 the DEQ wouldn't want to permit it.
19 So you know, there's plenty of
20 problems there. But there is an
21 answer and we've identified it. And
22 it's prevention at its source.
23 We need to build these roads
24 where even in rainy conditions mud
25 getting on those trucks is

□

38

1 minimized. Natural Resources is
2 committed to that. The way to do
3 that is through - Right now there
4 hard surface roads, but they can get
5 muddy. And Ronaldson Field has
6 committed a portion of their monthly
7 budget to improving those roads.
8 Using bigger aggregate that doesn't
9 tend to stick to tires. That kind
10 of thing. So while I won't tell you
11 that trucks do not occasionally
12 track mud on the road. I will tell
13 you that Ronaldson Field has never
14 been fined for that. Never been
15 penalized. And yet, they've heard

deq4-24

16 your cry. And they're making every
17 effort to resolve that issue to the
18 extent that it is associated with
19 Ronaldson Field.

20 There's three more issues that
21 were the main issues that have come
22 up in meetings with residents in the
23 local community, and I'm going to
24 try to kind of lump them together.
25 They are objectionable odors -

□

39

1 well, let me ask it this way. The
2 question is: Is Ronaldson Field the
3 source for objectionable odors or
4 rodents in the community? And then
5 thirdly, could settling or upheaval
6 of soils occur in the community due
7 to Ronaldson Field?

8 Let's talk about the odors
9 first. Ronaldson Field consists
10 again of construction demolition
11 debris and wood waste. By nature
12 those materials do not emit
13 objectionable odors. Numerous DEQ
14 sight visits have been performed on,
15 to Ronaldson Field as a result of
16 odor complaints. And I will tell
17 you, I've looked at a lot of them.
18 Maybe not every one, but a lot of

19 them. And I haven't seen one yet
20 that indicated that there were any
21 objectionable odors in the community
22 that resulted from Ronaldson Field.

23 And I also personally have made
24 several sight visits just for that
25 purpose, and I have not found any

□

40

1 objectionable odors in the community
2 that could be traced back to
3 Ronaldson Field.

4 I'll tell you now, I know that
5 was not a popular answer. In one
6 way, I wish I could tell you we
7 found it. We know what your problem
8 is and we found it. We can't. We
9 have been unable to trace any
10 objectionable odor back to Ronaldson
11 Field facility. There's an open
12 gate policy. Please come by any
13 time look around, sniff around. I
14 can promise you, if you identify
15 something that is associated with
16 Ronaldson Field that's related to
17 objectionable odors it will be dealt
18 with quickly and properly.

19 Let's talk about rodents for a
20 moment. 95 percent of the landfill
21 is covered with clay, so what you

deq4-24

22 see is 5 percent has actually
23 construction demolition debris
24 materials on it. I'm going to fly
25 through this, but all I can tell you

□

41

1 is Ronaldson Field has there own
2 structures on their site. They've
3 never had a rodent problem. Never
4 even had an occasion to call an
5 exterminator.

6 I've walked that landfill over
7 the last 10 years dozens of time in
8 every kind of condition, every kind
9 of weather condition. And I stand
10 here and tell you I have never seen
11 one rodent in Ronaldson Field. If
12 that is ever shown that Ronaldson
13 Field is some kind of source for any
14 rodents, believe me, Ronaldson Field
15 is prepared to address it.

16 Lastly, at least one resident
17 asked if the landfill could possibly
18 cause settlement of soils in the
19 community. Apparently, some of the
20 houses in the community have doors
21 that don't close properly or slabs
22 that have exhibited signs of
23 cracking. Please be assured that
24 geotechnical studies have been

25 performed as required by DEQ

□

42

1 regulations. Ronaldson Fields own
2 structures on sight have exhibited
3 no signs of settlement or upheaval.
4 And this issue is simply not a
5 concern associated with Ronaldson
6 Field.

7 I'd like to briefly discuss one
8 more issue that honestly does not
9 appear to be a problem to residents
10 that I have talked to. It has not
11 even come up. However, Natural
12 Resources would like for the members
13 of the Alsen and St. Irma Lee
14 communities to be well-informed
15 regarding this particular issue.

16 A resolution was passed in March
17 of 2007 by the East Baton Rouge
18 Parish Metropolitan Council. That
19 resolution opposes the "expansion"
20 of Ronaldson Field. I was present
21 at the council meeting on behalf of
22 Natural Resources and I'd like to
23 tell you a few things that are
24 worthy of mention.

25 The resolution referenced that a

□

1 permit has been submitted for the
2 expansion of the landfill. I don't
3 think the councilman was really
4 understood that expansion did not
5 mean expansion of the land area.
6 I've already discussed this. Tried
7 to make that clear. There is no
8 expansion of the area of the
9 landfill.

10 Secondly, it was stated to the
11 council members that Formosan
12 termites infested materials from the
13 New Orleans area were being accepted
14 by Ronaldson Field. It was further
15 misstated to the council members
16 that the hurricane materials
17 referenced in the permit application
18 were related to materials generated
19 in New Orleans. It's simply
20 incorrect.

21 Pictures of the fire that
22 occurred were shown at the council
23 meeting. Admittedly, that was an
24 ugly event. It was a regretful
25 event for Ronaldson Field, but let's

□

1 keep it in perspective. It was for

2 one day. It was handled properly.
3 It was never a hazard for human
4 health or the environment, and it
5 was handled properly. Measures have
6 been taken to minimize the chances
7 of it ever happening again. Since
8 the passing of that resolution,
9 Ronaldson Field personnel have had
10 the opportunity to meet with the
11 Mayor, as well as other city
12 officials to provide the facts
13 concerning the issues noted in the
14 resolution.

15 Please be assured that Ronaldson
16 Field Natural Resources will
17 continue in its efforts to ensure
18 that the community as well as city
19 officials remain well informed
20 regarding activities related to
21 Ronaldson Field.

22 Let's talk about some positives
23 real quick. Compliance record.
24 Ronaldson Field has a stellar
25 compliance record. Numerous

45

1 inspections of Ronaldson Field have
2 been performed by the LDEQ over the
3 past several years with only minor
4 issues, if any, identified. we

5 ourselves do inspections at the
 6 landfill at the request of Natural
 7 Resources. Mock inspections.
 8 We go in about every three
 9 months and inspect everything we can
 10 think of to inspect. And we mark it
 11 up. We give it back to them. If
 12 there's anything that we find that's
 13 out of compliance, it's addressed
 14 immediately.
 15 Ronaldson Field has never been
 16 fined in its 10 years of operation,
 17 and listen, Ronaldson Field's not
 18 perfect any more than anybody else
 19 is. 10 years ago when the landfill
 20 first started, there was a storm
 21 order issued that I remember that
 22 they had to deal with the DEQ on,
 23 but it was dealt with quickly and
 24 properly. Did they have a fire?
 25 Yes. Did they deal with it

□

46

1 properly? Yes.
 2 I encourage you not to take my
 3 word on this. Please review the DEQ
 4 files. They're available to you
 5 online at no charge. I will caution
 6 to you about one thing that one
 7 person mentioned to me, and we had

8 deq4-24
9 to research it and discover what it
10 was. When you submit this three-
11 ring binder, the process is that the
12 DEQ sends you back letters saying "I
13 need this and this and this," and
14 you go back and forth five or six
15 times with letters regarding that.

16 The DEQ calls those letters for
17 additional information Notices of
18 Deficiency. I think you all are
19 calling a letter requesting
20 additional information. It has
21 nothing to do with the operations of
22 the landfill itself. It has to do
23 with the permit renewal application.
24 If I didn't tell you that and you
25 reviewed the DEQ files, you might
 see all these letters going back and

□

47

1 forth saying I need this, this, and
2 this and they're all called Notices
3 of Deficiency. They have nothing to
4 do with Environmental Quality.
5 Recycling efforts. Would you
6 show the next picture real quick.
7 Real quick, please. That's curb
8 side material. Go ahead. These are
9 logs obviously, stumps, stuff like
10 that. Go ahead. That's what it

11 gets turned into. That's a more
12 difficult process than you would
13 think. Before that pile gets sold,
14 it sits there for months. Process
15 is it gets flipped, gets water put
16 on it, that kind of thing.

17 Go ahead. Another picture of
18 the pile. I was trying to show you
19 just how far that pile went, but I
20 didn't do a very good job of it.
21 Last picture. I like that just
22 because somebody just happened to
23 dug in that pile and moved that
24 crust. That dark, rich material is
25 what that, those trees and stumps

□

48

1 are made out of.

2 And let me tell you something
3 about that. In the 10 year life of
4 Ronaldson Field over 1,250,000 cubic
5 yards of green waste alone have been
6 recycled into the useful product you
7 see in that picture. That
8 translates into 150,000 normal dump
9 truck loads of material that got in
10 people's flower beds, rather than
11 being taken to a landfill. That is
12 huge.

13 Were it not for Ronaldson Field

14 deq4-24
15 and it's recycling effort those 150
16 truck loads would require disposal
17 in the East Baton Rouge Parish
18 landfill. Once the space of the
19 North Landfill is used up, it's
20 over. The East Baton Rouge Parish
21 residents will pay for the expansion
22 of that landfill or the construction
23 of a new landfill when it's gone.

24 Since 2002 alone, let's talk
25 about community outreach real quick,
 Natural Resources and Ronaldson

□

49

1 Field have made over 725 donations
2 or contributions to the local
3 community. The total cash value of
4 those donations exceed \$100,000.
5 \$111,933 to be exact.

6 I'm here to tell you that
7 Natural Resources is involved in the
8 community and they do care. On
9 behalf of Natural Resources and
10 Ronaldson Field I want to thank you
11 for the opportunity to share this
12 information. I hope this has given
13 you a clear picture of what the
14 permit renewal application really is
15 all about and why it's required.

16 Natural Resources is confident

17 deq4-24
18 that the more facts you know about
19 this process and Ronaldson Field
20 itself, the more comfortable you
21 will be with Ronaldson Field and
22 this process. It's sometimes
23 overlooked, but the existence of
24 landfills, thank you, is vital to
25 the growth and even the survival of
 any community. Two more sentences.

□

50

1 Natural Resources is committed
2 to ensuring that Ronaldson Field
3 provides this essential service
4 while also providing maximum to
5 human health and the environment.
6 Natural Resources is committed to
7 being an asset to the local
8 community while maintaining an
9 ongoing relationship with community
10 residents and by serving as a
11 vehicle to be of assistance to the
12 community. Thank you very much.

13 MS. HILL:

14 Thank you, Mr. Bernam. It's
15 6:40. We're going to take about a
16 three minute break, and go off the
17 record and get some chairs.

18 (OFF THE RECORD.)

19 It's now 6:45. Let's go back on

20 ^{deq4-24}
the Record. I'll now beginning by
21 allowing persons who have signed up
22 to speak five minutes to present
23 their comments. Anyone who needs
24 more than five minutes will be
25 allowed to finish his or her

□

51

1 comments after all the registered
2 speakers have had the opportunity to
3 speak.

4 The first to speak will be
5 public officials and there as well
6 limited to five minutes. So tonight
7 we have council member Addison.

8 MR. ADDISON:

9 For the Record, I'm -- Can you
10 hear me? I'm council Ulysses
11 Addison. 2813 Sentry Road, Baton
12 Rouge, Louisiana. My physical
13 address is 10235 Avenue L, Baton
14 Rouge, Louisiana. I am within the
15 one-mile, three-mile, radius of this
16 particular facility. I also am the
17 representative of the Metropolitan
18 Council on the Metropolitan Council
19 here in Baton Rouge in which this
20 facility is located.

21 I would like to start my
22 comments in reference as to what the

deq4-24
23 applicant has stated in regards to
24 the issue pertaining to the City of
25 Baton Rouge. It is true and

52

1 accurate that in March of 2007 the
2 Metropolitan Council did unanimously
3 pass a resolution opposing the
4 expansion of operations of this
5 particular facility and its
6 application. I think that
7 application resolution has been on
8 file with the Department of
9 Environmental Qualities.

10 we do have acknowledged receipt
11 from the Department in regards to
12 resolution 45:411 that references
13 several aspects of this particular
14 application at Ronaldson Field by
15 Louisiana Recovery Program.

16 My comments to the applicant
17 statements that the Council was
18 mislead and misinformed is not at
19 all an accurate assertion of what
20 took place. The Council was
21 adequately provided information in
22 regards to this facility. The
23 presentation that was presented was
24 not presented on my behalf, although
25 it was a part of the process that

1 was used during our public hearing
2 comment section for the City of
3 Baton Rouge. And on that statement
4 and those comments that were made
5 regarding the fire and other outside
6 information we have on behalf of the
7 public was presented by the Mayor
8 Presidents Office Department of
9 Public Works that handle our
10 landfill developments.

11 They were concerned about issues
12 pertaining to this particular
13 applicant. The Mayor President
14 himself spoke. I'll speak to the
15 issue with regards to the
16 Metropolitan Council and my
17 resolution to which I brought to
18 this Council. I don't want anybody
19 in the public, be it a public body
20 or the applicants themselves to
21 mislead the public in what took
22 place in regards to that particular
23 initiative.

24 There was a public hearing held
25 in our City Council, and any

1 individual had the right to speak.
2 And you would not want to give
3 inaccurate information on behalf of
4 any applicant or any project that's
5 on our council agenda. That's why
6 we have public hearings so people
7 can have a right to refute or
8 dispute any aspect of items brought
9 before the council.

10 And beyond that, if it was based
11 on information that we were not
12 fully provided, I would welcome the
13 applicant or any individual to speak
14 and correct the members of the
15 council, me as an individual, or the
16 Mayor President's Office that
17 handled that particular aspect of
18 presentation on behalf of the
19 Mayor's Office and the Department of
20 Public Works Solid Waste Division.

21 They did neither of the sort.
22 They stood firmly attesting to the
23 fact they thought this permit should
24 not be expanded. The Mayor
25 President is on the Record. He's

□

55

1 made it very clear that this Parish
2 of East Baton Rouge does not want an
3 expansion of this particular

4 facility. He has continued to stand
5 by that. I spoke to the office late
6 this afternoon. They are still in
7 solid support of this resolution.

8 There has not been a conflict
9 resolution passed by our council on
10 unanimous consent of this
11 government. The government's
12 position is as of this afternoon
13 that we are in opposition of this
14 particular action by LDEQ, and we
15 stand by that. It has not changed.
16 And if they are to do so, it needs
17 to be done in an official body
18 presented back to the Metropolitan
19 Council and the Council then can
20 rescind its resolution form. They
21 current have an expressed position
22 of this local government.

23 That's our position, and
24 regardless of the statements that
25 were made here this afternoon on

□

1 behalf of the applicant, I would
2 like to talk about some of those
3 issues. We talk about the idea of
4 just a minor change in terms of the
5 tonnage. Now with to regards to how
6 it's calculated and the formula to

7 which it's calculated. I'm not an
8 engineer, and I don't know how that
9 formula is calculated. I do know
10 the current expression of this
11 applicant had an express number of
12 tonnage that is used. To date that
13 tonnage number changed
14 significantly.

15 when you're a layman and you see
16 a 300,000 ton change, you don't know
17 how to calculate that formula. It's
18 not your responsibility to calculate
19 that formula. The other individuals
20 are. That is a significant change
21 to a lady who stands and reads the
22 application. That is significant,
23 in my opinion. Again, that is a
24 significant change in the amount of
25 tonnage that are collected.

□

57

1 we talked about the idea, and
2 it's there presentation, the idea
3 that when a truck comes into the
4 landfill it could be 30 yards or 15
5 yards. You are obligated to
6 calculate that as a 15 yards
7 facility truck, and then report that
8 to the LDEQ.

9 Today you're going to go on
Page 51

10 actual landfill debris coming into
11 the facility. If it's a 30 yards,
12 40 yard you will count it as such.
13 well, I would think you'd been
14 getting away with 20 yards and the
15 landfill might have been only
16 reporting 15 yards. So your
17 calculation is changing, but also
18 what is changing is the way that you
19 must process the calculatory
20 formula.

21 MS. HILL:

22 If you could finish up that.
23 That was the five minute limit.

24 MR. ADDISON:

25 Wow. I'm not gonna do like my

□

58

1 opponent did. Do we get a rebuttal?

2 MS. HILL:

3 I want to give everyone the
4 opportunity to speak.

5 MR. ADDISON:

6 I'm going to take my seat, but I
7 appreciate it and I just want to be
8 into the Record that the express
9 position of this local government
10 has not changed when static
11 opposition is when the director of
12 this department said the only reason

13 he could not come tonight was
14 because he had a conflict in his
15 schedule and he found out today.
16 The Mayor President forwarded him
17 the letter today, and he called me
18 to express that.

19 And said to me he would have
20 loved to express for the Mayor
21 President on his behalf. So I'll
22 leave that for the Record and that's
23 where we are. Thank you.

24 MS. HILL:

25 All right. Thank you. And the

□

59

1 next person will be those citizens
2 who live within a two-mile radius of
3 the location of the facility. And
4 I'll remind you. I'll call you up
5 and if you could state your name and
6 address for the Record. Juanita
7 Stuart.

8 MS. STUART:

9 Hello, my name is Juanita
10 Stuart. I live at 490 Rafe Mayer
11 Road. I'm a little concerned that
12 having this meeting the DEQ - when
13 we bought this company in 1990 all
14 of the hearings were in our
15 community. Some of us can not come

deq4-24

16 because we may not have any
17 transportation. It's an
18 inconvenience to us.

19 There have been numerous fires
20 at this company. Smoke from these
21 fires have created health problems,
22 such as breathing, all kind of
23 sinus, itchy eyes, skin rash. Dust
24 fly all the time at this facility
25 causing health problems. And we are

□

60

1 breathing this because of the
2 central air, heating and air that we
3 have.

4 If you wash your car at 9 a.m.
5 in the morning, at 3 p.m. you can
6 say "Please wash me." This company
7 has also have a lot of fowl odors
8 there. The wetlands have
9 disappeared on Rafe Mayer Road. We
10 used to see cranes, birds and other
11 species, but somehow they have been
12 diverted somewhere else.

13 We have a traffic problem. Some
14 trucks do not stop at the stop sign
15 on that property. They are still
16 trucks coming on Scenic Highway
17 instead of using Highway 19. There
18 is a - This area is a traffic

deq4-24

19 accident prone, and that on Easter
20 Sunday 2007, a young man got killed
21 because of the pot holes created by
22 your site. It was due to the mud
23 that the trucks tracked on Rafe
24 Mayer Road when it rained. You did
25 not have a special equipment to

□

61

1 clean the street.
2 I believe a community memo
3 suggested to you that you should
4 wash those trucks off when it's
5 muddy so it won't be tracked on the
6 street. There have been many other
7 traffic accidents. Most recently,
8 Friday, April the 18th, 2000. All
9 these accidents, nothing was said
10 about them in the news. I wonder
11 why? When you - when you presented
12 the plan to us you showed us a
13 beautiful landscape. Where is that
14 landscaping? The same landscape
15 that on Rafe Mayer Road it's the
16 same and you have destroyed some of
17 the shrubbery there.

18 Your permit has expired on
19 December 30, 2007. I wonder why the
20 DEQ let them operate? This is
21 wrong. There's something wrong with

22 the system, and we come tonight to
23 fix it. Do not renew Ronaldson
24 Field Landfill.

25 MS. HILL:

□

62

1 Thank you Ms. Stuart. Brenda
2 Chaney.

3 MS. CHANEY:

4 I'm Brenda Chaney, and I live at
5 13426 Clark Drive. And I want to
6 talk about the vegetation that is
7 planted. My father-in-law plants a
8 garden, and in that garden we plant
9 mustard greens. We have tomatoes,
10 cucumbers, collard greens, okra and
11 butter beans. And for the past 10
12 years that garden was planted, but
13 those butter beans, okra, tomatoes.
14 It doesn't look like it used to be
15 before the landfill came to our
16 neighborhood. You have spots on
17 those tomatoes and I tell you it
18 doesn't taste like a homegrown
19 tomato.

20 And I know we have people back
21 there that have tasted homegrown
22 tomatoes. Okra, okra has spots on
23 it. And you ask yourself, well,
24 where is this coming from? This

25 doesn't look like what we planted

□

63

1 for years and years before we had
2 this landfill in our neighborhood.
3 And I want to say to Steve also.
4 Steve mentioned that he hasn't
5 smelled any foul odors. Well, I
6 need you to come and stay with me
7 for a week, two weeks. And you, I
8 guarantee you you will smell it.

9 You said you haven't seen any
10 rodents. I need you to come walk
11 with me. Now, walk in a community
12 in that I have seen. And to me
13 they're strange. They're not like
14 they used to be. What I used to see
15 in years and years ago. Also, the
16 flies. The flies I tell you it
17 doesn't look like a fly. They're
18 green. They're big. It looks like
19 a bumble bee. You need to come out
20 and see this.

21 Also, I would like to say the
22 mud. I was there an accident that
23 happened, and to me you couldn't
24 even see the yellow lines that are
25 in the road. Yes, mud is out there.

□

1 And you say you had a sweeper. I'm
2 sorry you didn't find that picture
3 of those sweepers because I - I
4 mean that sweeper because I wanted
5 to see it. And I know we have other
6 people in the neighborhood that
7 haven't seen it. Thank you.

8 MS. HILL:

9 Thank you, Ms. Cheney. Up next
10 is Walter Wright.

11 MR. WRIGHT:

12 My name is Walter Wright. I
13 live at 27808 Rafe Mayer Road and I
14 do oppose this renewal permit. I
15 was opposed when they first come,
16 and I'm still opposed. Because the
17 location they're at in between the
18 oldest two communities there,
19 Lincoln Height and St. Irma Lee.

20 That's no respect for our
21 peoples up here. And that go to our
22 church and its foul odors. A death
23 trap in the curve have caused
24 several accidents and a casualty, I
25 know. Wet or dry, it's a death

□

1 trap. And when this facility came,

2 deq4-24
3 it was supposed to have been four
4 phases. They done went four phases
5 and some more. And they still want
6 to go up.
7 Okay, I heard them talk about
8 expansion. They don't want to
9 expand out. They want to go up 50
10 more feet. And enough is enough.
11 It needs to be closed down like it
12 should have been closed down. Okay,
13 and we called on our elected
14 official. Now, we had elected
15 officials, brought them there,
16 supported this thing, you know.
17 When the other Mayor was in - you
18 all know who he was Tony McKew. He
19 supported that.
20 Now we ask our elected officials
21 at present not to allow this thing
22 to go on. And DEQ, well, DEQ I have
23 never really liked you because you
24 always in on it. Now, you're
25 supposed to be for the people,
 protecting the people, but you're

□

66

1 not for the people. You're for
2 industry only, and I know this for a
3 fact.

4 I've been messing with this

5 things ^{deq4-24} 20 something years, and
6 you've never been in favor of us the
7 people. And we're the ones elect
8 and pay your salary as taxpayers.
9 And talking about no garbage
10 trucks on the landfill, I have seen
11 garbage trucks over there. I sure
12 have seen them, and on several
13 occasions when the wind is high - I
14 went run and take pictures when the
15 wind was blowing. The garbage bags
16 you get from WalMart and other
17 grocery stores was all hanging in
18 trees on the side of the road and in
19 the road. It was a disgrace. I
20 don't have my pictures with me, but
21 I did go around there and take some.
22 And I called Juanita and told her
23 what I was going to do, so it's a
24 disgrace around there.
25 No, I'm not for the renewal.

□

67

1 MS. HILL:
2 Thank you Mr. Right. Next is
3 Catherine Franklin.
4 MS. FRANKLIN:
5 I've jotted down a few things.
6 My name is Catherine Franklin. My
7 address is 504 New Rafe Mayer Road.

8 I agree with everything everybody
9 has said and I was looking at the
10 pictures that you were showing. You
11 only show one side of Ronaldson
12 Field, but you didn't show that side
13 where all that mud is. I know
14 several times, I've drove - driven
15 through the back, and I've skidded
16 on the mud that comes from that
17 facility. I'm all for people having
18 their businesses and what have you,
19 employment, what have you.
20 But when you got up and you said
21 there was no odors. There was no
22 mud. You ran the machines five
23 times a day. I've never seen that,
24 ever, ever. I've never seen twice
25 or three times a day. That's me. I

□

68

1 haven't seen them. And to me when
2 you said that there is no odor,
3 there is no - I'm sitting back
4 there going well, this things been
5 there 10 years. Where are you?
6 Because I know I've driven through
7 there, and there's like a haze.
8 If you drive up to where the
9 dump is, there's cloud there of
10 dust. And I know when I moved back

11 to Alsen, I've never in my life had
12 so much problems with sinuses. And
13 I'm constantly with sinus. When you
14 said it would seem that it wasn't
15 so. That's like a slap in our face.
16 Like, like we're stupid, you know.
17 Because it is so.

18 If you had gotten up and said, I
19 know we have a problem with odors.
20 I know we have problems with dust.
21 I know we have problems with - we
22 are more open-minded to listening to
23 you, but when you got up and said it
24 was not so, that lets me know you
25 don't care about us. That's all I

69

1 have to say.

2 MS. HILL:

3 Next we have Catherine Jones.

4 MS. JONES:

5 My name is Catherine Jones. I

6 reside at 593 Rafe Mayer Road, Baton

7 Rouge, Louisiana. I rise this

8 evening to speak about the

9 infractions on the quality of life

10 placed upon the citizens of the

11 Alsen and St. Irma Lee area.

12 we have - when we speak of

13 quality of life, we speak of clean

14 deq4-24
14 air. we speak of lack of rodents
15 and flies. what we actually have in
16 Alsen now is an insurgence of what I
17 would call Jurassic size flies.
18 Flies that don't appear to be afraid
19 of you. They will come and they
20 will stick. They will cover your
21 car and your house. That was not
22 there before the landfill arrived.
23 I rise to speak on the damages
24 that is being caused to the
25 respiratory system of the

□

70

1 individuals living in the community.
2 Has - As been spoken of before, of
3 the clouds of dust that impact the
4 individuals that pass that plant and
5 live in close proximity to that
6 facility.

7 It is inhumane the way we have
8 to tolerate such an infraction.
9 Particularly with the fowl odor that
10 we have to endure as well. of
11 course, it's not there according to
12 the representative from the
13 landfill. But I rise to tell you
14 that I live it 24/7. I live within
15 close proximity of that facility.

16 I'm speaking about the safety

17 hazards of the trucks flying through
18 the community. You take your life
19 in danger when you simply try to
20 cross the street to go to the
21 mailbox to collect your mail
22 everyday. The trucks, if we have a
23 35 mile speed limit they are flying
24 far exceeding that limit.
25 Ronaldson Field has what appears

□

71

1 to be a miniature sized stop sign
2 for those huge trucks that's leaving
3 that facility every day.

4 Passing the site you see
5 overgrown trees, overgrown bushes.
6 Just today I saw someone going up,
7 two men, going up the side of that
8 hill with small weed eaters trying
9 to cut down those bushes after it
10 has been overgrown for some time.

11 And you say that you are
12 concerned and care about the
13 community. Well, I really don't
14 understand how that 150 truck loads
15 of 725 donations equate to quality
16 of life for citizens in that
17 community.

18 I stand to oppose the renewal of
19 any permits for Ronaldson Landfill.

20 deq4-24
20 In fact, I ask you how high will you
21 go with those mounds of trash in the
22 community? I ask you. Please, do
23 not provide any more permits to this
24 landfill. Thank you.
25 MS. HILL:

□

72

1 Next we have -- I'm having
2 trouble reading the writing.
3 DR. CHETEE:
4 My name is Chetee. I am an
5 environmental engineer and I am a
6 resident of (inaudible). I want to
7 go on Record to say that I do not
8 oppose siting landfills. However, I
9 oppose Ronaldson Landfill based on
10 my three years experience living in
11 that area.
12 I want also to go on Record to
13 say that the proposal that we have
14 just discussed similar proposals for
15 similar landfills somewhere else
16 that the issue I take is not with
17 the proposal. The issue is
18 operation of the landfill of
19 Ronaldson Field. And I oppose it
20 because I have asked questions since
21 I came into that committee. Whether
22 it has been to determine the impact

23 of this ^{deq4-24}landfill on the health of
24 the community, and I have been told
25 no. Based on the issue at present

□

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1 and the problems that have existed
2 over many years, I would have
3 thought even DEQ or the Ronaldson
4 itself would have sponsored
5 something like that conducted by
6 continue to operate a landfill at
7 this time.

8 Therefore, I oppose it. The
9 next reason I oppose it is because
10 of the location. I believe that if
11 you got to review the location of
12 this landfill today that you would
13 have some terrible problems. And I
14 have even suggested to the DEQ to
15 revisit their location. The
16 criteria for siting a landfill of
17 that sort in a location such as they
18 have it now.

19 The next question - The reason
20 why I'm opposed to this is the
21 complications. They have a
22 complication principal which is
23 premise on why we are here. There
24 is no mental baggage the committee's
25 informed or made aware of when there

1 is a problem. Such as fire that we
2 talked about. All the others. So
3 the cost are not met. As a result,
4 I oppose that kind of permit because
5 that is the basic criteria for
6 allowing committees to help people
7 in operations such as this.

8 The next thing was - I don't
9 have time. Five minutes doesn't
10 give me enough room to punch holes
11 on the proposal. Okay. I would
12 have gone down to the official
13 office. What that means this is not
14 a good time for it? Or some of the
15 plants that have sent to the
16 committee to come down and see. I
17 would - This is not a good time, so
18 I would just more or less talk so
19 far and give back my time to
20 somebody else. Thank you.

21 MS. HILL:

22 Thank you. Next is Lafayette
23 Harrison.

24 MR. HARRISON:

25 My name is Lafayette Harrison.

1 I live at 706 New Rafe Mayer Road.
2 It's easy to say what is good for a
3 community or an area when you don't
4 live in that area. Because I can
5 remember when we were fighting this
6 before Ronaldson Field came into
7 existence. There was some persons
8 who said it was good for the
9 community, so our suggestion was if
10 it's so good for our community,
11 then I'll tell you what then, you
12 put it in your community.

13 However, they did not do it, and
14 the powers that be elected to do
15 what they wanted to do. Well, I
16 will say this, that we have been
17 lied to from the beginning. Number
18 one, they showed us this beautiful
19 plan about how they were going to
20 landscape it. I wish you'd see it.
21 He only showed you the picture of
22 the part of the entrance. Part of
23 the entrance where the side is, but
24 they did not show you the entire
25 entrance. They did not show you

□

1 down Rafe Mayer Road how bushes and
2 broken down trees and all kinds of
3 stuff are in the ditches. They did

deq4-24

4 not show you all of these things,
5 okay?

6 When it rains and you pass
7 through there, you may as well not
8 come through, because you are going
9 to get mud all over your car. And I
10 know you can say there is no mud,
11 but my truck is sitting right
12 outside there from the last rain. I
13 did not take it off, and you can see
14 some of the mud that's still on my
15 truck. And that came from my going
16 out the back way toward a Highway
17 19.

18 I'd also like to just comment on
19 odors in the air. Where I live our
20 church is next door to the Field,
21 and my house is about six houses
22 from the dump. Well, I know I don't
23 have a smelling problem. I smell
24 something. And it's not a very
25 pleasant odor. Noise. We can hear

□

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1 those trucks working over there in
2 that - The thump, the thump, the
3 thumping. And then sometimes late
4 in the evening you can hear heavy
5 trucks. I live on New Rafe Mayer.
6 Heavy trucks are coming down that

7 street all during the day with all
8 kinds of debris. And they're not
9 driving 25 miles an hour either.
10 And I would like to say that there
11 are potholes in the back part of
12 that road, and it took the city
13 many, many, many months to complete
14 those potholes back there. Because
15 when it rains, when it rains you get
16 potholes there. And you better slow
17 up coming around that curve because
18 some of those trucks are coming out
19 there pretty fast.

20 I would like to say to the
21 committee, please do not renew the
22 proposal. You say that you are
23 concerned about human life and I
24 know my - A lot of people get tired
25 of me saying about 30 pieces of

□

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1 silver, but to me I feel that my
2 life is worth more than 30 pieces of
3 silver. And I'm not moving out of
4 Alsen. And I fought it back then
5 and no, I'm not a millionaire, no
6 I'm not, but I feel that in that I'm
7 a tax payer who had to pay
8 additional taxes this year. I think
9 that I deserve a right to live

10 comfortably in my house that I pay
11 taxes and state taxes for.

12 So I'd just like to say whomever
13 powers that be, I am opposed to the
14 renewal. And I really wish that you
15 would actually come and see for
16 yourself, because the pictures can
17 be doctored and show anything that
18 you want to show. But let's just be
19 real. Thank you. We live there so
20 we see. Thank you.

21 MS. HILL:

22 Next, I'm having trouble reading
23 the name that. It says they're
24 representing Alsen properties.

25 MR. MCCAULE:

□

1 My name is Abner McCastle. I
2 live at 14056 Brantner Drive in
3 Baker, Louisiana. I rise to say
4 that I seriously oppose the
5 expansion of the permit. When you
6 look at me standing here saying that
7 I oppose the permit. It's nothing
8 personal against Mr. Sid. It's the
9 fact that I'm one of the original
10 sign-on's for the landfill. And to
11 this day I am so sorry.

12 I am so sorry that I ever put my
Page 71

13 signature on that application for
14 that landfill. My reason is that we
15 have been treated unfairly, in the
16 sense that we were promised certain
17 things that did not happen. One of
18 the things that did not happen, as I
19 think about who this was told to it
20 really brings tears to my eyes.
21 Because it was promised to a person
22 that I thought highly of, and that
23 was my mother.
24 They told us they would bring
25 about a advisory board that was

□

80

1 comprised of citizens from Alsen,
2 the community, and the satellite
3 areas. And they would be advised -
4 They would advise as to what the
5 community wanted. How they wanted
6 and he would abide by that. That to
7 this day, to my knowledge, is not
8 the case.

9 And just a few days ago, and I'm
10 so sick, I'm so sick and tired of
11 being sick and tired. of people
12 going around in these minority
13 communities playing that game.
14 Light bill's paid, meet with a few
15 people. Send an African American

deq4-24

16 around get names and then when it
17 come time, somebody calls me and
18 said you know, they had the owner of
19 Ronaldson Field out here the other
20 day and he was telling people, "Go
21 and find those people who I paid
22 their light bill and make sure they
23 be there."

24 Now that is wrong. That's
25 wrong. That is so so wrong. To

□

81

1 treat anybody like that. That is
2 totally disrespectful for somebody,
3 and this is nothing personal against
4 Steve. I like him as an individual,
5 but your business the way you handle
6 things in some instances if very,
7 very shoddy and it's almost to the
8 point where I would almost call it
9 racial. Because I don't believe you
10 would do that in another - in a
11 white community. I really don't
12 think you would do that. Go around
13 and play cheap and send that man
14 that's sitting right beside you
15 around talking about paying people's
16 light bills and giving them a little
17 something to eat. And then you
18 follow up on the big deal and ask

deq4-24

19 them, go get those people who I paid
20 their light bill. That's wrong.

21 I - and as we move on when you
22 think about it. A project of that
23 nature which you have and enough is
24 enough. Now I think you're probably
25 pretty good off over there, and it's

□

82

1 time for you to shut it down. When
2 you talk about a project of that
3 nature, you're questioning yourself
4 as to are we better off with it, or
5 are we better off not ever having
6 it? Did it add to the quality of
7 life or did it take away?

8 well, my dear, old mother died
9 with cancer, okay. Now for that man
10 to get up there and say he can't
11 smell. He didn't smell no odor, but
12 what he didn't tell you which way he
13 went. The wind was blowing this a
14 way and he went that way. He wasn't
15 going to smell nothing. The thing
16 of it is, it's time for you to stop
17 playing games with this community.
18 I think they have had a
19 disproportionate odors and what have
20 you put on them and it's time for
21 you to have some sympathy, DEQ in my

22 honest opinion.
23 I think this man is profiting.
24 I think he, to some degree, has
25 taken advantage of these people, my

□

83

1 people. And I want to shut it down.
2 Think about it. When I was here we
3 talked about the quality of life.
4 When we say the quality of life was
5 the environment that you lived in,
6 it was no longer water, land and
7 air. It's everything that impacts
8 your life. Well, this particular
9 area that we're talking about today
10 has a vast serious effect on the
11 quality of life for these people.
12 Please, do not expand or approve the
13 expansion of Ronaldson Field. The
14 other thing I want to ask you.

15 Before you do anything, come
16 back out in the community and meet
17 with the people. I know people who
18 wished to be here, can't be here
19 because they don't have the
20 transportation. Go to the people.
21 And that's what we did when I was
22 here, and I hope that you will take
23 advise and do it too. Thank you.

24 MS. HILL:

25 Thank you. Next is Andre

84

1 Ferguson.

2 MR. FERGUSON:

3 Hi folks this evening. I live
4 at 734 St. John Lane in the St. Irma
5 Lee community. I moved back when my
6 father became ill with cancer, and
7 since I've been there it's been
8 quite a bit of noise. There has
9 also been odor. My father
10 complained to me about it before he
11 passed. The whole time he was sick.
12 Enough is enough, and it's
13 definitely time for them not be
14 approved to go any farther than what
15 they are. And I definitely
16 appreciate that. For you at the
17 DEQ, I'd appreciate you actually
18 coming to the community and taking a
19 look before you do take a vote on
20 anything in that measure. Thank
21 you.

22 MS. HILL:

23 Thank you, Mr. Ferguson. Next
24 is Mitchell Grant.

25 MR. GRANT:

1 Good evening everybody. My name
2 is Mitchell Grant. I live at 857
3 Rafe Mayer Road. I'd like for you
4 to picture me at 857 Rafe Mayer
5 Road. I have for a neighbor a dump.
6 I'm not performing here for
7 theatrics just stating a fact. I
8 have a dump across the street from
9 my house. That's my neighbor. And
10 I ask everybody here, supposing
11 everything in your neighborhood was
12 just fine. Your home everything
13 except one thing. Your neighbor was
14 a dump. I don't think you would
15 accept it, or be pleased with it.

16 Even the speaker who presented
17 Ronaldson so beautifully on the
18 pictures there. Of course, it
19 didn't picture everything. It
20 didn't picture, as some of my
21 neighbors already spoken of, the
22 sludge, the crud and so forth that
23 leads up to the dump that's on our
24 roadways that we have to travel
25 everyday. Not to mention the

□

1 pictures show us things, but the

2 deq4-24
pictures don't help us to smell, as
3 one of our neighbors already spoke
4 of. We do have the odors.
5 So what we're talking about, if
6 the dump is absolutely safe,
7 absolutely safe. No hazardous or
8 hazard material to your health, but
9 it's a dump. And a dump is just not
10 something that anybody - I don't
11 think anybody in here would say,
12 "Well, look I have a dump for my
13 neighbor, no problem."
14 Nobody wants a dump and we're
15 not out of order so far fetched from
16 the rest of the people and the
17 citizens of Louisiana or in the
18 world to say we don't want the dump
19 as our neighbor. And not only
20 having this dump as a neighbor, but
21 the neighbor dump is talking about
22 expanding its dump. Or getting
23 additional permits to continue to be
24 there.
25 We, after we failed to prevent

□

87

1 it from being there, we were looking
2 forward to the day that it would be
3 shut down. And now we're faced the
4 day where, hey, how about getting a

5 renewal so we can stay even longer?
6 How do you feel about that Alsen
7 Heights? well, obviously, like any
8 other normal citizen we do not want
9 a dump in our neighborhood.

10 And one more thing I want to
11 say. Sure you're saying that the
12 materials coming in they're
13 nonhazardous to your health. But
14 let's face it, a large truck,
15 hundreds and hundreds of large
16 trucks coming in day by day. who
17 can possibly be assured that nothing
18 hazardous is coming in all the time.
19 I'm realistic. Thank you. I'm
20 against the permit.

21 MS. HILL:
22 Okay. The next group of
23 speakers would be those who work
24 within a two-mile radius of the
25 location of the facility. we have

1 Reverend Donald Ruth.
2 MR. RUTH:
3 Good evening. My name's Donald
4 Ruth and I live at 425 Sugarland
5 Drive in Baker. I'm also the pastor
6 of St. John the Baptist Church
7 that's located at 820 Rafe Mayer

8 Road. And I want to go on record to
9 say initially that I am totally
10 against the expansion, the proposal
11 that's here tonight for this
12 facility.

13 I want to commend my little
14 league baseball coach, Mr. McCastle
15 for his statements in recanting his
16 earlier actions and speaking against
17 those. We fought this thing back
18 years ago tooth and nail, and
19 obviously, it was no avail. But we
20 used the processes that were given
21 to us like these types of hearings
22 where we exercise our legal rights
23 of citizenship to voice our
24 disapproval of this project and it
25 went forward.

□

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1 The community sucked it up.
2 It's there. We're going to make the
3 best of it in spite of all the mud.
4 In spite of all the odor, and I
5 don't know how my friend can just
6 say he never smelled anything. But
7 to me that's smacks up the arrogance
8 that someone would tell you that he
9 didn't smell anything, when I don't
10 live there, but I'm there eight or

11 deq4-24
12 nine times a week. And I can't
13 count the number of times that I
14 smell stuff and saw mud on the
15 streets and what have you. And of
16 that nature. It shows you the
17 desensitized nature that these
18 people are operating with.
19 So before, and I'll be brief,
20 but the previous administration that
21 allowed this to go forward. I
22 remember we had a meeting at our
23 church and Mayor Mckew was invited
24 and he came. He said to us, he
25 said, my hands are tied. He gave
 three reasons why his hands were

□

90

1 tied. And one was that this
2 facility did not impact negatively
3 the traffic flow. And the other
4 two, I don't recall what they were.
5 So he used the phrase of his hands
6 being tied to do nothing.
7 I'm happy to hear that
8 Councilman Addison and the mayor are
9 being real. They're not going to
10 hide behind some technicality of the
11 law. They're going to do what's
12 right. This is a community, and
13 they don't need a dump there. They

14 deg4-24
14 tried to suck it up and go forward,
15 but now the agenda is to expand it.
16 And you can talk about the
17 calculations and all of that kind of
18 thing. At the end of the day, you
19 need to do the right thing. And the
20 right thing is not to enlarge this
21 dump. You ought to be trying to
22 close it down. If you don't know
23 what the right thing is, stop by
24 WalMart. Buy you a mirror. Look in
25 it, and tell me how you can live

□

91

1 with yourself. When you think about
2 the children, and the older people
3 and anybody that's going to be
4 impacted by this thing.

5 Our church is getting ready to
6 open a daycare that's going to be a
7 stones throw away from this
8 facility. You know, that's
9 something to enhance this community.
10 Tell me how this place is going to
11 enhance Alsen. Sure there's a need
12 for such facilities. We don't
13 discount that. It's a good thing,
14 but it's not a good thing in and
15 amongst people. Do the right thing.

16 DEQ I want to encourage you to

17 deny this, because it's wrong. I
18 don't have technical data. I don't
19 need any. It's just flat out wrong.
20 And so, based on that I would hope
21 that we could represent each other
22 as human beings first and not about
23 money. And get to together and say
24 that it's wrong. And those people
25 who are being used, look in the

□

92

1 mirror also.

2 MS. HILL:

3 Thank you, Reverend. The next
4 group of speakers will be those
5 citizens who live in the Parish of
6 the location of the facility. The
7 first speaker is William Adams.

8 MR. ADAMS:

9 My name is William Adams, Bobby
10 Adams. I live in the parish on the
11 south end where Ronaldson Field also
12 has another plane of recycling
13 products. I just wanted to stand
14 here and support this facility. Not
15 only does it give jobs, not only
16 does it take all the waste from our
17 parish, and not fill up the
18 landfill, they're good neighbors. I
19 mean they try.

20 deq4-24
 The property is zoned as it is.
21 I wrote a list of other businesses
22 that are near by there. I mean
23 there are chemical, polymer plants
24 that are polyfemer plants, clean
25 harbor, PPG industries, Exxon, Resin

□

93

1 plant, Ergon. I mean the list goes
2 on and on. I mean, it is an
3 industrial zoned area and I tell you
4 what. I live in a house and that's
5 what in this landfill. I have a
6 washing machine. Sometimes those
7 are in the landfill. I recycle
8 products in my yard and that's
9 what's in this landfill.

10 I just want to say that I am for
11 the continuation of the landfill.
12 One day it will be a beautiful green
13 mountain that Louisiana doesn't
14 have. Thank you.

15 MS. HILL:

16 Thank you Mr. Adams. Come to
17 order. The next speaker we have is
18 Shawn Castleman.

19 MR. CASTLEMAN:

20 Shawn Castleman. 9053 Trudeau.
21 I just want to make a short
22 statement on behalf of the employees

1 I jotted down some things just
2 to say why I oppose. One thing is
3 because it is obvious that Ronaldson
4 Fields is not a good neighbor. One
5 reason I know it's not a good
6 neighbor is because had they really
7 wanted the community of Alsen and
8 St. Irma Lee to know that this
9 hearing was going to be going on
10 today that they would have made an
11 effort to get direct communication
12 to the people in Alsen. I know it
13 ran in the paper. I know that. I
14 don't know where it ran in the
15 paper, but I know that the mail runs
16 in Alsen.

17 I know you have enough money in
18 your budget if you can repair roads,
19 you can spend money on postage to
20 get the word to the community about
21 this meeting. The other thing, I
22 don't believe that Ronaldson Field
23 is because like Ms. Juanita stood to
24 say the meeting did not have to be
25 held here if you really wanted the

1 neighbors of Ronaldson Field to hear
2 you message you could have taken it
3 to the community. You did that when
4 you wanted to first open it. I was
5 at a meeting when they were trying
6 to get this project going and there
7 were promises made and some of I
8 know Mr. McCastle did an awesome job
9 of saying what you said. But there
10 are some things that I remember.
11 And what I remember was that
12 representatives from Ronaldson Field
13 said that this facility will be
14 virtually invisible to the public.

15 You also said that it will not
16 present a safety hazard. A health
17 or environmental hazard to the
18 community. And I don't know what's
19 over there. I cannot say what's at
20 that dump. I hear you say that it
21 is construction and demolition
22 materials and in my mind I think of
23 like a house or a building or
24 something that's been torn down. I
25 lived in the country and we used to

□

1 burn stuff. And wood smelled pretty
2 good. Even tar smelled pretty good.
3 I don't know what that is, and I'm

4 sorry, sir that you - You really
5 disappointed me. You did a really
6 good presentation, although I picked
7 out some stuff that wasn't true.
8 But for you to say, like the other
9 lady said, that there is no odor. I
10 would - You know I looked at the
11 list of people who supported this
12 site. The renewal and expansion of
13 the permit.

14 And when I look at your address,
15 none of them were in this area where
16 Ronaldson Field is. In fact, you
17 were like on Jefferson and like the
18 gentlemen said, you're living south.
19 So you're not impacted directly by
20 this. I understand that you
21 recycle. You have stuff at your
22 home that you recycle. I understand
23 that, but it's not recycled in your
24 backyard. The other thing I want to
25 say is that, you have really let the

□

1 community of Alsen down. And I
2 think - I know I speak for the vast
3 majority. I understand that I don't
4 speak for everybody, because some
5 people have gotten a few pieces of
6 silver. I understand that. But for

7 the vast majority of the community,
8 we're very disappointed in you as a
9 neighbor.

10 And I know in your presentation,
11 sir, you mentioned that you could go
12 to another landfill or waste site,
13 but why not use the one where it
14 should be going. I can appreciate
15 what you're saying from a business
16 standpoint, but you know, we pay
17 taxes and I would rather pay more
18 taxes to keep it out of the
19 community. Let it go to the North
20 one or somewhere else. And to
21 expand to me is just to get bigger.
22 If by your assumption, a few years
23 ago you have, we have what we have
24 now. I can only imagine what it
25 would be if it's expanded and if

□

99

1 this permit is renewed.

2 So I go on Record - I'd like to
3 go on Record to say that I am
4 opposed to the renewal of this
5 permit and the modification of it.

6 MS. HILL:

7 Thank you. The next speaker is
8 Randall Peterson.

9 MR. PETERSON:

10 Good evening. My name is
11 Randall Peterson and I live 3360
12 Morning Glory Avenue. And I suggest
13 that some of you all might want to
14 duck in case anybody has some
15 animosity. I am the person who sold
16 that property to Sid and the rest of
17 that company. I am a Ronaldson. I
18 still support the expansion of this
19 project.

20 The reason that I support it,
21 fundamentally, is because it's about
22 a vision that I had about the
23 property. And I think that you made
24 some very valuable points about not
25 having people live up to what they

□

100

1 say and do. I understand that and I
2 have been disappointed at times in
3 my life about things where people
4 fell short. The vision that I
5 particularly had at the time that I
6 sold the place was that recycling is
7 a part of community development.

8 I recently had some experience
9 with on the West Coast of the U.S.
10 in Seattle, Washington where
11 community involvement is the
12 standard. It's not an exception.

13 Down here it's a little bit more
14 exceptional. You don't see it very
15 often and nevertheless, they have
16 recycling and they have progress in
17 development. That's the basis of
18 it.

19 That being said, I will very
20 much resist the temptation to talk
21 about the past. I think that it's
22 important to persist in being
23 effective with one another.
24 However, you if it's in business or
25 personal interactions that's

□

101

1 valuable. I'm sad if some things
2 didn't happen. Fundamentally, I
3 still support the project in terms
4 of the proposed extension of it. I
5 don't know a whole lot more about
6 it. I suppose smart development
7 would be one thing that I would
8 suggest now, not emotional
9 development. Thank you and thanks
10 everybody for coming out here,
11 because community involvement is
12 critical.

13 MS. HILL:

14 Thank you. At this time I'd
15 like to call on those citizens who

16 are in support of the permitting
17 action followed by those citizens
18 who are opposed to the permitting
19 actions and I'm not - Three more
20 speakers have signed up to speak all
21 in support. The next speaker will
22 be Bill Cochran.

23 MR. COCHRAN:

24 Thank you. My name is Bill
25 Cochran. I reside at 10316

□

102

1 Bluebonnet Avenue. I came here
2 tonight as an interested citizen,
3 because my background has been
4 involved with waste management,
5 recycling, and etc. I also have
6 been familiar with some of the
7 operations of DEQ. And my
8 experience with DEQ is that they
9 have strict rules and regulations
10 that government facilities such as
11 those at Ronaldson Field. And those
12 that Ronaldson Field has been
13 operating under since their
14 inception.

15 And it is my belief that the DEQ
16 will fulfill their obligations in
17 regulating this facility. The
18 reason that I am in support of this

19 renewal is that I think in the
20 future and that is, if it wasn't for
21 Ronaldson Field where the material
22 will go and that would be to the
23 landfill. And having some
24 experience in terms of landfills and
25 how much this material would fill up

□

103

1 the landfill and then the cost of
2 developing a new landfill is very
3 astronomical. It's very large.

4 And so if we can divert anything
5 from that landfill then we are
6 saving tax money and what might
7 occur in the future. And for these
8 reasons, I stand in support of
9 renewal of this proposition.

10 MS. HILL:

11 Thank you, Mr. Cochran. I'm
12 reminding everyone to please turn
13 off your cell phone. Next speaker
14 is Clint Barry.

15 MR. BARRY:

16 Good evening. My name is Clint
17 Barry. I live at 1361 South and I'm
18 an employee of Natural Resources
19 Recovery. I do support the renewal
20 of the permit. Back in December
21 when Mr. Sid came to me about the

deq4-24

22 community of St. Irma Lee and Alsen,
23 it come in to be a blessing to the
24 community. Strictly the old folks,
25 I'm a minister myself. And I went

□

104

1 into his office and we began to talk
2 about it. We finished talking and
3 he said well, let's talk about the
4 money now. What do you need? And
5 the first thing that came out of my
6 mouth was, "You got the wrong man.
7 You got the wrong man. I'm not in
8 it for the money. I'm in it for the
9 people."

10 So I took this challenge on and
11 I'm not sorry that I took the
12 challenge on because there's a lot
13 of nice people in the community.
14 Little do you know that the finances
15 and the money that is being pumped
16 into the community. And how dare
17 Mr. Edmunds sit there and discredit
18 my credibility for he came to me
19 with \$14,700 to do our raggedly to
20 build back up. The problem that I
21 have with that is if you don't want
22 the man, don't mess with his money.

23 All right, and also he has
24 another proposal for equipment

25 buildings and whatever else. Maybe

□

105

1 \$10, \$12,000 more dollars that he
2 wants underlined his pockets, but he
3 come up here and put the company
4 under scrutiny, but he underneath
5 the table.

6 Let the Record show what kind of
7 people you're dealing with, because
8 I'm going to tell the truth. I'm
9 not in it for the money, but what
10 some of you-all in it for the money.
11 You saying that, yeah, you come in
12 and pay a light bill, but what have
13 you paid? How many people old folks
14 that you've met that cannot go to
15 the doctor that we are paying
16 medical bills for them. We're
17 helping pay their light bill, \$300,
18 \$400, \$500 light bill.

19 MS. HILL:

20 Mr. Barry, I'm going to remind
21 you to please speak about the
22 permit.

23 MR. BARRY:

24 And that's concerning the
25 permit, that the money that we're

□

1 pumping into the program. \$45,000
2 that you all-don't know, but you
3 downgrade Ronaldson Field, but you
4 don't know the finances that's being
5 pumped into the system. That's all
6 I have to say. I am for renewing
7 the permit.

8 MS. HILL:

9 Next speaker is Jerry Bollinger.

10 MR. BOLLINGER:

11 My name is Jerry Bollinger. I
12 was born over on Prescott Street.
13 Been in and around Baton Rouge all
14 my life. Right now I live out in
15 Albany. I go in and out of this
16 landfill often. We do still live in
17 a democracy. The people that lived
18 on Bluebonnet didn't want to sell
19 their backyard to the city, but the
20 city said we need your backyard so
21 we can bring the traffic all the way
22 through to Airline.

23 There's every walking, talking,
24 breathing soul in this parish
25 benefits from that landfill. The

□

1 Lord Jesus Christ gave us a command

2 deq4-24
to be good stewards of this earth.
3 We all fall short of that, every one
4 of us. And we need to be good
5 neighbors, got to be. There's
6 getting to be more and more of us.
7 And I support that landfill, because
8 if it wasn't there then all we could
9 dead end streets and your vacant
10 lots would start accumulating this
11 stuff and then you'd be screaming at
12 the city, "Come clean up my street."
13 This facility's good for everybody,
14 and I support it.

15 MS. HILL:

16 Those are all the speaker
17 registration forms I have for and
18 against. I have two more elected
19 officials. Right now, we have
20 Senator Sharon Weston-Broom.

21 MS. BROOM:

22 Good evening my name is Sharon
23 Weston-Broom. I'm State Senator for
24 District 15 and I reside at 3591
25 Letha Drive here in Baton Rouge.

□

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1 First of all, I want to echo and
2 support what has been said by
3 Councilman Addison representing the
4 City of Baton Rouge this district.

8 deq4-24
that's very unfortunate.

9 There have been some

10 beneficiaries of this process, but

11 the people who have not benefitted

12 have been the neighbors in the

13 surrounding community. And I think

14 that if everyone were to consider if

15 this was in their neighborhood how

16 they would feel. Then I think we

17 would all be doing a reality check

18 and agreeing with many of the people

19 who have come up here tonight and

20 shared their concerns about the

21 quality, or should I say, the lack

22 of quality of life that they have.

23 Lastly, certainly DEQ does have

24 a regulatory obligation and you can

25 rest assured that I will register my

□

110

1 comments along with Councilman

2 Addison's and Representative Honey's

3 with the Department of Environmental

4 Quality about the conclusion of this

5 event tonight.

6 Having said that, I think that

7 obviously there are more against

8 this than are for it. And those

9 that are against certainly have a

10 right to be. I was going to say my

11 deq4-24
12 final comment. I think one of the
13 most substantial things that I heard
14 tonight was when Mr. McCastle came
15 up here as one of the original
16 signatories on the documents that
17 that was a mistake. That took a lot
18 of courage to come up here and say
19 that.

20 And it also speaks to the fact
21 that he has been monitoring the
22 situation and realizes that things
23 weren't like they were supposed to
24 be. So having said that, I will
25 certainly as an elected official
 register the concerns of the

□

111

1 constituents who have spoken
2 tonight. Thank you very much.

3 MS. HILL:

4 Thank you, Senator. Next we
5 have State Representative A*****
6 *****.

7 MR. HONEY:

8 Good evening. I'm State
9 Representative Aven Ray Honey. I
10 live at 6421 St. Pious Avenue.
11 That's just a little east of Alsen.
12 But I grew up at 9331 Scenic
13 Highway. Less than five miles from

14 ^{deq4-24}
15 the Ronaldson sight, and I come in
16 support of the Alsen community. As
17 a child, friends of mine, we grew up
18 riding our bicycles to Alsen, which
19 was a beautiful place at that time,
20 no landfills.

21 But a few Sundays ago, or a few
22 months ago I left Reverend Ruth's
23 church and I started to go left to
24 scenic highway. And I changed my
25 mind. I said I'll go straight home,
 and I took a right. And as I took a

□

112

1 right, I passed Ronaldson would be
2 to my right. And there was a hole
3 in the side of the mountain. It's
4 not a hill anymore. It's a
5 mountain. And something was
6 happening underground because it was
7 on fire. And that was frightening
8 to me to think that we're throwing
9 safe objects in that landfill and
10 the landfill is burning. So I rise
11 in support of the people from Alsen.
12 I worked with a lady for a long time
13 at Southern University. My day job.
14 And I watched her health just
15 deteriorate and she lived right
16 there in Alsen. It started with

17 deq4-24
breathing problems, skin problems,
18 and I watched this lady go down
19 until she just could not work
20 anymore.
21 So I to stand here in support of
22 the community. Only if you lived in
23 that community can you understand
24 what these people are going through
25 and what they have been going

□

113

1 through. As I worked for twenty
2 years with Mayor Holden as an
3 elected official for the Metro
4 Council, as he ran for State
5 Representative. When he ran for
6 Senate, I was right there. And I
7 watched the people fight every day.
8 All the chemicals companies up and
9 down and the gentleman was right.
10 There are a lot of chemical
11 companies. And they're stuck right
12 there circling Alsen, and those
13 people have no where to go. It
14 reminds me of the situation with
15 Hurricane Katrina when the person
16 said, "why didn't the people leave?"
17 They couldn't leave. They could not
18 leave.

19 So I'm not speaking as someone

1 life.

2 And anybody look in the mirror
3 will tell me that, I dare tell them
4 this is about money, not about
5 quality of life. We have the
6 passing now. We didn't have that
7 when Tommy Mckew said we could not
8 continue to place this in this
9 landfill and yes, he did
10 aggressively pursue what he called
11 operation takedown. Which called
12 for the demolition of structures and
13 buildings in our parish and we
14 desire not to put them there.

15 But I don't like speaking for
16 other people, or dredging up dead
17 animals. I don't like to do that.
18 I like them to speak for themselves,
19 but that's how we got here, well
20 before my tenure. Today, we're not
21 faced with that same dilemma.

22 Secondly, we'll talk about the
23 needy. Anybody who talks about, we
24 don't have the ability to drive that
25 service, I disagree with them. We

1 do. Just three weeks ago the
2 Metropolitan Council dealt with the
3 Recycling Foundation of building a
4 landfill at the cost of 18 million
5 dollars to provide recycling at the
6 Zachary site on Lemon Road for the
7 East Baton Rouge Parish dump. The
8 need, we can address that issue at
9 the local government level.

10 Finally, for the Records for
11 LDEQ, the applicant and citizens
12 here today. You have the local
13 officials on the Record, on the
14 Record. If the local government
15 wishes to change its position, it
16 puts the rescinding measure before
17 the local government. We vote on
18 that measure. We then send you a
19 counter position of this government.

20 The official position of this
21 government today is we are not
22 position of expanding and renewing
23 this permit. That is the official
24 position tonight. You heard from
25 the State officials, both who

□

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1 represent this community.

2 The State Senator and the State
3 Representative stand here tonight

4 and say to the authorities that we
5 are also opposing the continuation
6 of this process and expanding this
7 landfill. Now, we could technically
8 talk about, it's about trucks and
9 tonnage. We can talk about slopes.
10 But if we got back to the first
11 principle, quality of life and the
12 impact here, whether the slope if a
13 3.1 or a 2.8.

14 These people know what they live
15 everyday. And for someone to say to
16 them there's no odor, you're
17 disingenuous. Because you don't
18 know its odors, because you're not
19 there. They're there every day.
20 They live it every day. And they
21 shouldn't have to. It's not
22 opposing the operation of recycling
23 in this parish, because I think it's
24 a great thing. We have a great
25 recycling program for East Baton

□

1 Rouge Parish. I think we should
2 continue it, and I support it.

3 It is about where this facility
4 is located. It's located next to a
5 church where people worship. It's
6 located next to people's homes. And

7 it should not always come down to
8 saying, wow, it's there so let's
9 continue to use it. I continue to
10 stand on the position of this local
11 government, the City of East Baton
12 Rouge Parish. If anybody wished to
13 express that differently, they have
14 the right to come to the
15 Metropolitan Council, put it before
16 our body and let us take another
17 look.

18 Tonight our position is, the
19 Council of East Baton Rouge Parish
20 Metropolitan Government opposes this
21 particular position as we stand here
22 tonight. Thank you very much.

23 MS. HILL:

24 Is there anyone else that hasn't
25 spoken who would like to speak in

□

120

1 support or against the permitted
2 action?

3 MS. COVE:

4 My name is Katherine Cove. I
5 live at 3341 Carol Drive, Baton
6 Rouge, Louisiana. I - You'll have
7 to excuse me, I have very nervous at
8 public speaking. I had no intention
9 of speaking. I came here and I

10 listened to your concerns. And I
11 think that some of you have very
12 viable concerns about things that
13 are going on in your community. I
14 live in Mid City. There's a
15 horrible odor. I live in a home
16 where it is filled with rodents
17 suddenly.

18 I don't know why. It is
19 terrible. I think that I've heard
20 the chief complaints coming from the
21 citizens of being the danger of the
22 trucks and the speed. And that is a
23 viable complaint, however, that is
24 not the responsibility unfortunately
25 of this company. Those complaints

□

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1 should be directed at your
2 Representatives who stood up here in
3 opposition to renewing this. That
4 is the city's job. Please, call
5 your city officials about the speed
6 of these trucks. Have your city
7 officials take it into their hands
8 as it is ultimately their
9 responsibility to take care of
10 people breaking the laws on the
11 roads.

12 The other complaint that I have
Page 109

13 heard has a lot to do with the
14 appearance of what you're having to
15 look at. I hear living next to a
16 dump. Perhaps you could make some
17 comments or some suggestions to the
18 company as a beautification effort.
19 So you do not have to look at a
20 dump. So you do not have to look at
21 weeds growing. If that is what you
22 were seeing, I believe that is what
23 you're seeing. There's a woman who
24 spoke about, just the other day
25 someone came and took hours weed

□

122

1 eating. Speak to the company. That
2 is a complaint about beauty, about
3 appearance, about beautification.
4 Speak about that. Talk to them
5 about those fundamental areas that
6 worry you.

7 As far as the dust, I have no
8 comments on that. I do not know. I
9 do not live in the area and would
10 not presume. I would not presume to
11 say that I know about it. I would
12 say contact your city officials.
13 You live in an industrial zone and
14 find out where it is coming from,
15 from your city officials, from your

16 representatives. Don't point the
17 blame until you have the facts to
18 support it and where it is coming
19 from for sure. And if you do have
20 that as this man is telling me, then
21 I wish as a citizen that someone had
22 come up here and said, "We had tests
23 done by such and such department
24 that shows this. We had tests done
25 by doctors that proved that this was

□

123

1 coming."

2 Recycling is important. It is
3 extremely important to our
4 community, to our earth. And if
5 you're - the concerns you've listed
6 seem to be directed in the wrong
7 area. That is my only statement. I
8 am in support of the renewal.

9 MS. HILL:

10 Are there any other speakers at
11 this time. Would you like at
12 additional?

13 MR. HARRISON:

14 My name is Lafayette Harrison.
15 820 New Rafe Mayer Road. I know I'm
16 not stupid, and I know I'm not
17 crazy. I know what my eyes see. I
18 know what my ears hear. I can see

19 in the air all, everybody who is for
20 it, why don't you come to Alsen and
21 buy a house up there and give us
22 your house. You come here. Talk is
23 cheap. See, when you're not in a
24 situation, you really don't know
25 what it's like until you're actually

□

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1 in a situation.
2 So instead of the ones talking
3 about, you agree. Come build a
4 house up in Alsen. Allison Height
5 has some houses, some spaces in
6 Lincoln Height. There's some lot up
7 there. Come build a house up in
8 Alsen right across the street from
9 the dump. That's my challenge.
10 we'll help you build your house in
11 Alsen. So if I'm living in New
12 Orleans, of course, it's good
13 everything is good. Of course, you
14 live in South Baton Rouge or North
15 Baton Rouge, of course you are
16 supporting it. You know the reason
17 why you're supporting it? Because
18 you are not directly affected by it.
19 However, what I'd like for Mr.
20 Sid and the powers that be are out
21 on what? Picou Lane and all that.

22 Okay, open up a new facility out
23 there and then let them. And I want
24 to hear what they have to say. I
25 bet you they would be on the news,

□

125

1 you know, saying, "We don't want.
2 we don't want." well, just like
3 you don't want. We don't want it
4 either.

5 MS. HILL:

6 Thank you. Please state your
7 name and address again for the
8 Record.

9 MR. PETERSON:

10 Again, I'm Randall Peterson.
11 3360 Morning Glory. Mr. Lafayette
12 sir, you might have an opportunity
13 to do that. There is another
14 landfill that's just south of the
15 Country Club of Louisiana. And if
16 you want to keep that one open, it's
17 right there next to a really,
18 really, rich neighborhood. Anyway,
19 I don't live there.

20 I participate still in the Alsen
21 and St. Irma Lee region. And the
22 way that I do that is I still hunt
23 there. And I don't know if any of
24 you all eat rabbits or ducks, or

25 have ever hunted there, but I still

□

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1 do. I did a few months ago. I'm
2 healthy.

3 MR. HARRISON:

4 Do you live there?

5 MR. PETERSON:

6 I answered that.

7 MS. HILL:

8 They have more speakers that I
9 want to give time, but we've been in
10 here for two hours, so I'll go off
11 the Record and take five minute
12 restroom break. I also want to
13 remind people, if you do leave and
14 you parked in the garage to have
15 your parking ticket validated at the
16 desk outside the door. It's 8:10
17 right now. We're going to go off
18 the Record for five minutes.

19 (OFF THE RECORD.)

20 MS. HILL:

21 Okay. Let's get started again.
22 It is 8:23 and *****. We will
23 continue taking speakers in five
24 minute increments, and I remind you
25 to please speak on the permit action

□

1 that we're discussing here tonight.
2 And let's keep this hearing as it
3 has been. I believe I had a few
4 other speakers raise their hands
5 before the break.

6 MS. GEORGE:

7 I'm Ulla George. I live at 325
8 Woodpecker Street, here in East
9 Baton Rouge, and I just want to
10 respond to the young lady and don't
11 see her in here now who said that
12 the problem we're having, the
13 problems that we're addressing are
14 not Ronaldson Field problems. And
15 you know I agree with her they are
16 not Ronaldson Field problems, we're
17 the ones with the problems.

18 And she said that we need to
19 address our problems with our
20 political officials. We've done
21 that, which is why they're here.
22 But I will say that although it is
23 not a Ronaldson Field problem, it is
24 an Alsen and St. Irma Lee problem.
25 But the only reason we're having a

□

1 problem is because of Ronaldson

2 deg4-24
Field exists right among us. Thank

3 you.

4 MS. HILL:

5 Thank you. I'm sorry. Let's
6 let her go and then you can go ahead
7 sir. And then we're going to go in
8 order across the chairs.

9 MR. McCASTLE:

10 Okay gang. My name is McCastle.
11 I restate my position that I'm here
12 to oppose the expansion of the
13 landfill. But in respect to the
14 opposition of the landfill and Mr.
15 Sid Bryan, he does have an operation
16 going on there in the community.
17 And I'm not against industry as
18 such. But I still think some of the
19 things that he promised in the
20 original application should be
21 filled.

22 I think it would go a long ways
23 in galvanizing the people. I think
24 the other thing is that if they stop
25 trying to short circuit people by

1

129

1 meeting in little groups and playing
2 one against the other. Meet with
3 the whole community. Fairly,
4 squarely, Sid, and I'm looking you

5 right in the eye. I'm going to tell
6 you. Stop sending people who are
7 not qualified to do public relations
8 to do your work and get out there
9 yourself and let people know that
10 what you can do to help them as a
11 whole. Now an individual.

12 Anybody can pay \$45,000 on a day
13 care center.

14 MS. HILL:

15 sir, let's keep you comments on
16 the permit action.

17 MR. McCASTLE:

18 okay, but this is all part of
19 the application, ma'am. You might
20 not have seen it, but I was going to
21 school. working on it. Part of
22 that application was for them to get
23 that application was for him to get
24 that permit and there were certain
25 things in that application that he

130

1 was committed to.

2 So I know what I'm talking
3 about, because I was in the room
4 with when it was developed. The
5 DEQ, so and I understand what you're
6 saying. I'll try to keep it on the
7 books. I'm telling Sid, and I'm

8 deq4-24
8 calling him on the phone. Sid, you
9 did not do what you promised you
10 were going to do and you promised
11 you were going to hire people from
12 Alsen. You did it for a while, but
13 then you end up bringing up half the
14 people that you've got working over
15 there from Mississippi.

16 That back there and the rest of
17 them sitting back there. And I know
18 them so what is - You guys, you
19 know, your permit to operate is not
20 doing the people in the community
21 any good economic wise. Just paying
22 their light bill. That's a one time
23 thing. Let's do something that's
24 going to give a long term - have a
25 long term effect and economic

□

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1 development. That's all I'm saying.
2 Get back - Get the advisory board
3 like you promised. Bring in some
4 people from Allison trying to do
5 their work and then lets all get
6 going. But you do have an
7 operation. I guess you're going to
8 be there for a while. I'm just
9 opposed to renew.

10 MS. HILL:

11 deq4-24
I'm sorry sir. Okay, go ahead,
12 sir.

13 MR. COLEMAN:

14 Good evening my name is Harry
15 Coleman. I reside at 9675 - And I
16 sit there and I hear all the
17 complaints of the community. First
18 of all, I'm a manager at the
19 landfill, so I manage the landfill.
20 And I see Mr. McCastle come in and
21 talk to Mr. Sid and I see other
22 people within the community talk to
23 Mr. Sid. For the lady that said we
24 do not have a sweeper. Ma'am, you
25 are sadly mistaken. I run that

1

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1 sweeper every hour when it's muddy.
2 when it's muddy every hour on the
3 road, I sweeps the road.

4 But you have very - we have
5 somebody complained about the dust.
6 We have a water truck that we put on
7 the roads to reduce the dust. So we
8 do have resources and we do have
9 equipment there to take care of the
10 landfill. First of all, you guys
11 got to have unity. You don't have
12 - You gotta have unity in yourself
13 for all of us to get along. If you

17 deq4-24
17 you know it does close at 9:00pm,
18 but we can call Capital Police and
19 open up the garage for us. Okay, so
20 the next speaker.

21 MR. HAYNES:

22 My name is Terry Haynes. I live
23 at 3160 Layten Avenue. That's off
24 of Thomas Road. I smelled a lot of
25 stuff since I've been there. I

□

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1 didn't know where it was coming
2 from, but when I went to Ronaldson
3 Landfill I found out that's not
4 where it's coming from. I'm not
5 saying you-all don't smell nothing.
6 I'm sorry, I don't know. I drive
7 trucks for Ronaldson Landfill now.

8 And the first thing they told me
9 when I was hired, was not to go down
10 Rafe Mayer Road through the
11 neighborhood. These other trucks,
12 they have no control of them coming
13 through there. They don't know how
14 fast they're going. They have been
15 told not to come through there.

16 I worked at Allied Waste for 23
17 years. There trucks have been told
18 not to come that way. People choose
19 to come that way. I don't know why

20 ^{deq4-24}
it is. I'm in favor of the
21 landfill.

22 MS. HILL:

23 Thank you, Mr. Haynes. Do we
24 have any other speakers?

25 MR. RUTH:

□

135

1 Okay, I'm Reverend Donald Ruth.
2 I'll make this brief. You know,
3 after hearing all the other comments
4 and I think nobody is opposed to
5 having recycle facilities. We need
6 that in our society. We know that.
7 The issue is the location as others
8 have said.

9 The point I'm trying to make is
10 this. The people of Alsen don't
11 want the thing there to start with,
12 but it's there. And they are coping
13 with it. Certainly, don't expand
14 it. That's the point to make it
15 work. You've not been a neighbor.
16 I hear you saying. I know what
17 you're saying. I respect your
18 opinion.

19 I've stood on our church's park
20 area that's in between the landfill
21 boundaries and our church building
22 and the stench was horrendous coming

□

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1 with that. One day the dump is
2 going to close down, one day. But
3 the community is going to still be
4 there. And you won't know the real
5 effects until later. Look in the
6 mirror.

7 MS. HILL:

8 Do we have any other speakers?

9 MR. FERGUSON:

10 My name is William Ferguson, and
11 I live at 7267 East Caprice in Baton
12 Rouge. Well, I work at the church
13 four to five days a week and I'm
14 there. I get to see a lot go on
15 about the dust and the mud and all
16 of that. And it's true. I was
17 raised in the St. Irma Lee area and
18 I've been there about 59 years and
19 we have property there. We live
20 there, so we going to object to the
21 landfill.

22 MS. HILL:

23 Thank you, sir. Any other
24 speakers? There's no other
25 comments? Okay, I'd like to remind

□

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1 you that the comment period of this
2 technically complete solid waste
3 permit renewal and application and
4 associated environmental assessment
5 statement for Natural Resources
6 Recovery Inc. Ronaldson Field type
7 three construction and demolition
8 debris landfill and resources
9 recovery recycling facility ends at
10 12:30pm Tuesday, May 27, 2008.

11 All comments received, requests
12 for notification of the final
13 decision and the transcript from the
14 hearing are processed by the Public
15 Participation Group and are
16 available on EDMS. The permit
17 writer reviews all comments and uses
18 any additional information that is
19 appropriate to update the permit
20 information.

21 The names and addresses with all
22 the comment speakers and those who
23 requested to be notified of the
24 final decision are added to the
25 public comment database.

□

1 A final draft of the permit and
2 the response to the public comments
3 are prepared and forwarded to the

4 OES Assistant Secretary for final
5 approval. Upon the issuance of the
6 permit, a letter is mailed to all
7 the commentors, speakers and those
8 who requested to notified of the
9 final decision. The final decision
10 includes the appeal process. The
11 basis of the decision, and the
12 response to all of the public
13 comments received.

14 I haven't received any exhibits
15 during this hearing. If there are
16 not other comments, I want to thank
17 you for your attention and your
18 participation in this hearing. And
19 let the Record reflect that the time
20 is 8:35 p.m. and the hearing is now
21 closed.

22 (The Hearing was concluded at 8:35 p.m.)
23
24
25

□

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2 R E P O R T E R ' S P A G E

3 I, Tara Torres, Certified Court

4 Reporter, in and for the State of

5 Louisiana, the officer, as defined in

6 Rule 28 of the Federal Rules of Civil

7 Procedure and/or Article 1434(b) of the
8 Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure,
9 before whom this sworn testimony was
10 taken, do hereby state on the Record:

11 That due to the interaction in
12 the spontaneous discourse of this
13 proceeding, dashes (--) have been used
14 to indicate pauses, changes in thought,
15 and/or talkovers; that same is the
16 proper method for a Court Reporter's
17 transcription of proceeding, and that
18 the dashes (--) do not indicate that
19 words or phrases have been left out of
20 this transcript;

21 That any words and/or names
22 which could not be verified through
23 reference material have been denoted
24 with the phrase "(phonetic)."
25

□

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1 Tara Torres, CCR
2 Certified Court Reporter
3

4 C E R T I F I C A T E
5

6 This certification is valid only for a
7 transcript accompanied by my original signature
8 and original raised seal on this page.

9 That this testimony was reported by me in
Page 127

deq4-24

10 the Stenomask method (voice-writing), was
11 prepared and transcribed by me or under my
12 personal direction and supervision, and is a
13 true and correct transcript to the best of my
14 ability and understanding;

15 That I am not related to counsel or to the
16 parties herein; am not otherwise interested in
17 the outcome of this matter; and am a valid
18 member in good standing of the Louisiana State
19 Board of Examiners of Certified Shorthand
20 Reporters.

21

22 Tara Torres (#22012)
23 Certified Court Reporter
24
25

□

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